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110

THE WALKING DEAD



CLIFF 1/13

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Previously:

Jesus returns to the Hilltop to recruit soldiers in the coming fight against Negan. While their leader, Gregory, balks at the call to arms, Maggie and guardsman Kal join the war effort. But just as the plan begins coming together, Kal flees the Hilltop, leaving Jesus to suspect he's been betrayed...

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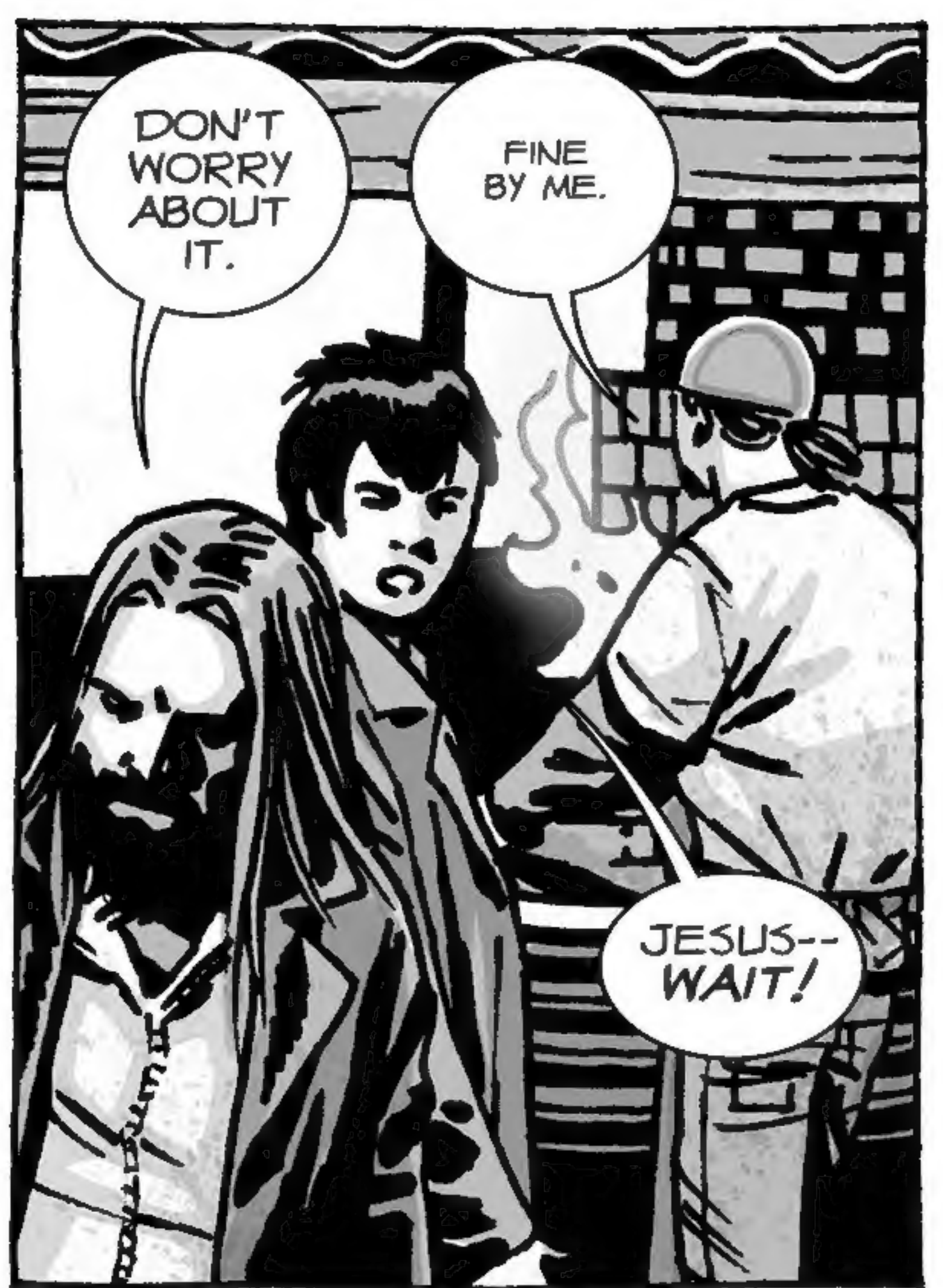


EXACTLY
HOW LONG
HAS HE BEEN
GONE?



HUH? I DON'T KNOW.
AN HOUR--LESS THAN
AN HOUR. FORTY-FIVE
MINUTES,
MAYBE.

WHY?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

FINE
BY ME.

JESUS--
WAIT!



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

I TOLD KAL...
EVERYTHING
WE HAVE
PLANNED.



I TOLD HIM
ABOUT NEGAN
AND THE
SAVIORS.

OH, GOD.
HE'S GOING
TO WARN
THEM.



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?





I DON'T
KNOW HOW
I FEEL
ABOUT
THAT.



ABOUT WHAT? THE
FACT THAT THIS
MADMAN WON'T BE
LORDING OVER US
FOR MUCH LONGER?
THE FACT THAT
WE'LL BE SAFER
VERY SOON?

EUGENE, I'M NOT
REALLY FOLLOWING
YOU HERE. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M
SAYING? WE'RE GOING
TO WAR. I'M TAKING A
BIG CHANCE TRUSTING
YOU WITH THIS
INFORMATION...

BUT IF
WE'RE GOING
TO DO THIS,
YOUR LITTLE
OPERATION HERE
JUST BECAME
ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL.



I'VE JUST... MAKING
THIS AMMUNITION, I'VE
BEEN THINKING ABOUT
HOW IT'S GOING TO **SAVE**
LIVES... USED AGAINST
ROAMERS, TO HELP
PEOPLE.

OR EVEN TO
OFFER TO THE
SAVIORS, AS
PAYMENT... TO
KEEP THE
PEACE.

I HADN'T
REALLY
CONSIDERED
WHAT I'M
DOING WOULD
KILL HUMAN
BEINGS...



HUMAN
BEINGS WHO
WANT TO
KILL US.

WELL, I
AM TAKING
THAT INTO
CONSIDERATION.
I'M JUST SAYING...
IT'S A LOT TO
THINK ABOUT...

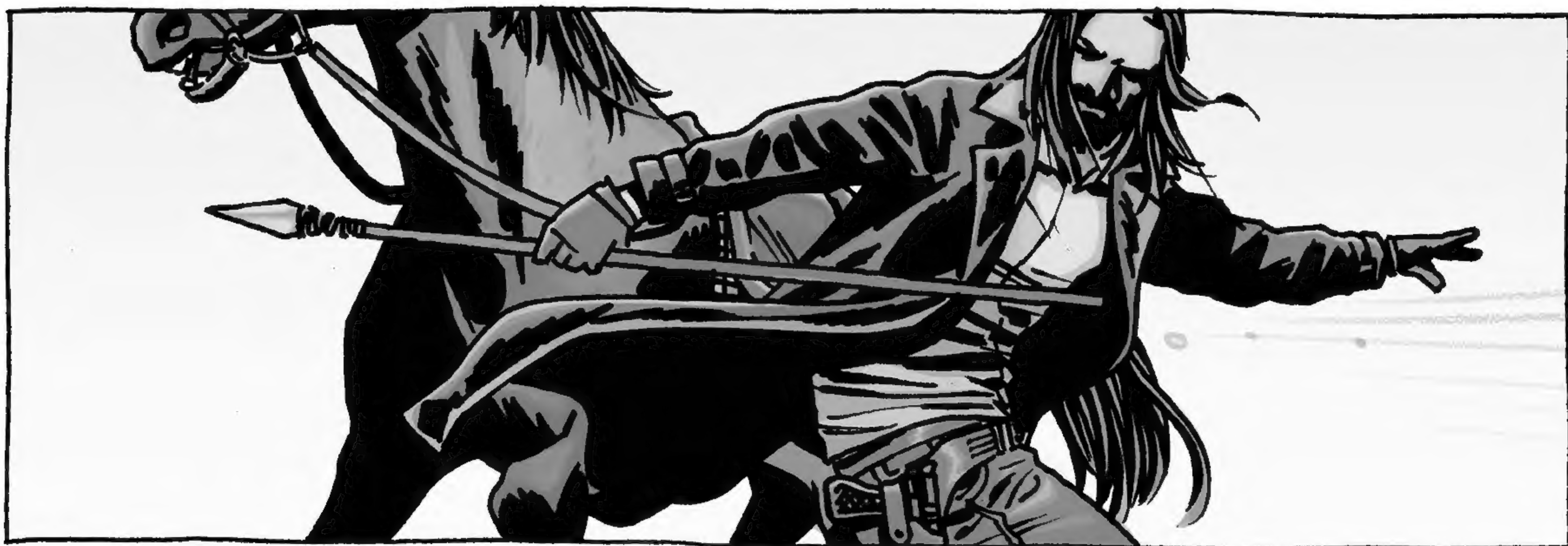


WELL, YOU BETTER START
THINKING ABOUT IT RIGHT
NOW. YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO HAVE A WHOLE
HELL OF A LOT
OF TIME.

THINGS
ARE MOVING
VERY
QUICKLY.









ME?!
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
THINKING
STRAIGHT
HERE.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT
THIS NEW GROUP
THAT'S GOT YOU
ACTING LIKE A
LUNATIC?



RICK'S PEOPLE
ARE FIGHTERS.
THEY'RE WHAT
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR.

AND I KNOW
WHERE NEGAN
SLEEPS NOW.
WE'VE GOT A
CLEARER IDEA
OF HOW MANY
THERE ARE...
AND THE
KINGDOM IS
ON OUR
SIDE!



YOU CAN'T DECIDE THIS FOR
ALL OF US. YOU CAN'T DRAG
US TO WAR WITHOUT
GETTING EVERYONE
ON BOARD.

YOU'RE
PLAYING WITH
PEOPLE'S
LIVES
HERE!



I KNOW THE SAVIORS
ARE DANGEROUS. I DON'T
LIKE GREGORY'S
AGREEMENT WITH THEM
ANY MORE THAN YOU DO...
BUT IT'S THE SAFEST
OPTION FOR NOW.

AND IT
WORKED!
I'M NOT GOING
TO LET YOU RISK
THE LIVES OF
EVERYONE ON THE
HILLTOP BECAUSE
YOU TRUST YOUR
NEW FRIENDS.

REALLY?
THEY KILLED
DAVID, CRYSTAL
AND ANDY--AND
THEN SENT ETHAN
BACK TO KILL
GREGORY! WHY?!
BECAUSE THE
OFFERING WAS A
LITTLE LIGHT? NO!
TO KEEP US
SCARED!



KAL--STOP FLICKING
AROUND AND TRUST
ME. I'M NOT DOING
ANYTHING THAT'S
GOING TO
ENDANGER
US.

NOW TELL
ME. DID YOU
SEND OFF THE
FLARE YET?
HOW LONG
AGO?

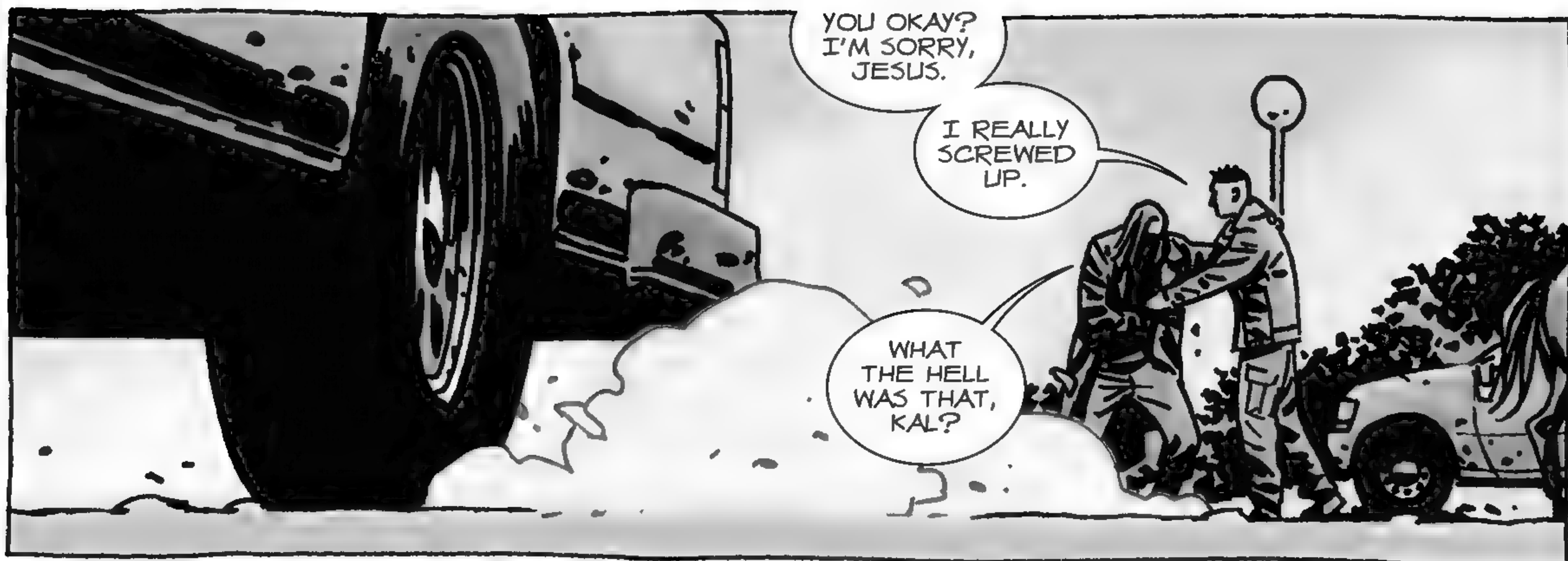
HOW MUCH
TIME DO WE
HAVE BEFORE
THEY GET
HERE?



KAL?







YOU OKAY?
I'M SORRY,
JESUS.

I REALLY
SCREWED
UP.

WHAT
THE HELL
WAS THAT,
KAL?



WHEN I SAW
THEM COMING... I
DON'T KNOW, I
JUST... I WAS
SCARED BEFORE,
OKAY? SCARED FOR
ME, SCARED FOR
EVERYONE.

BUT SEEING THEM...
I'M NOT SCARED
ANYMORE... WELL, I AM...
BUT I HATE THEM SO MUCH
THAT IT OUTWEIGHS IT. I'VE
HATED EVERYTHING
THEY'VE DONE TO US,
EVERYTHING THEY'VE
TAKEN.

IF WE CAN CHANGE
THINGS--IF WE CAN
PUT A STOP TO ALL
THIS, I THINK WE
SHOULD TRY.

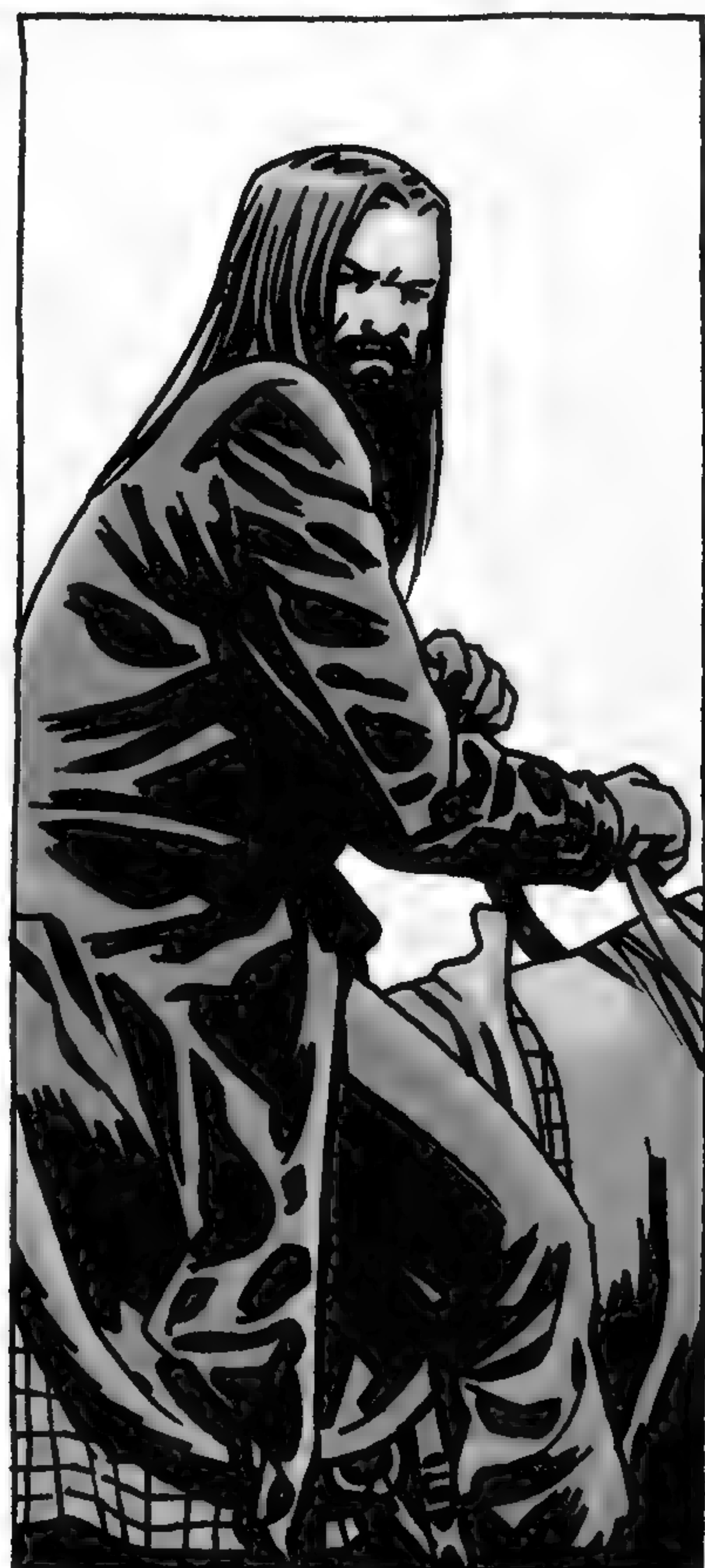


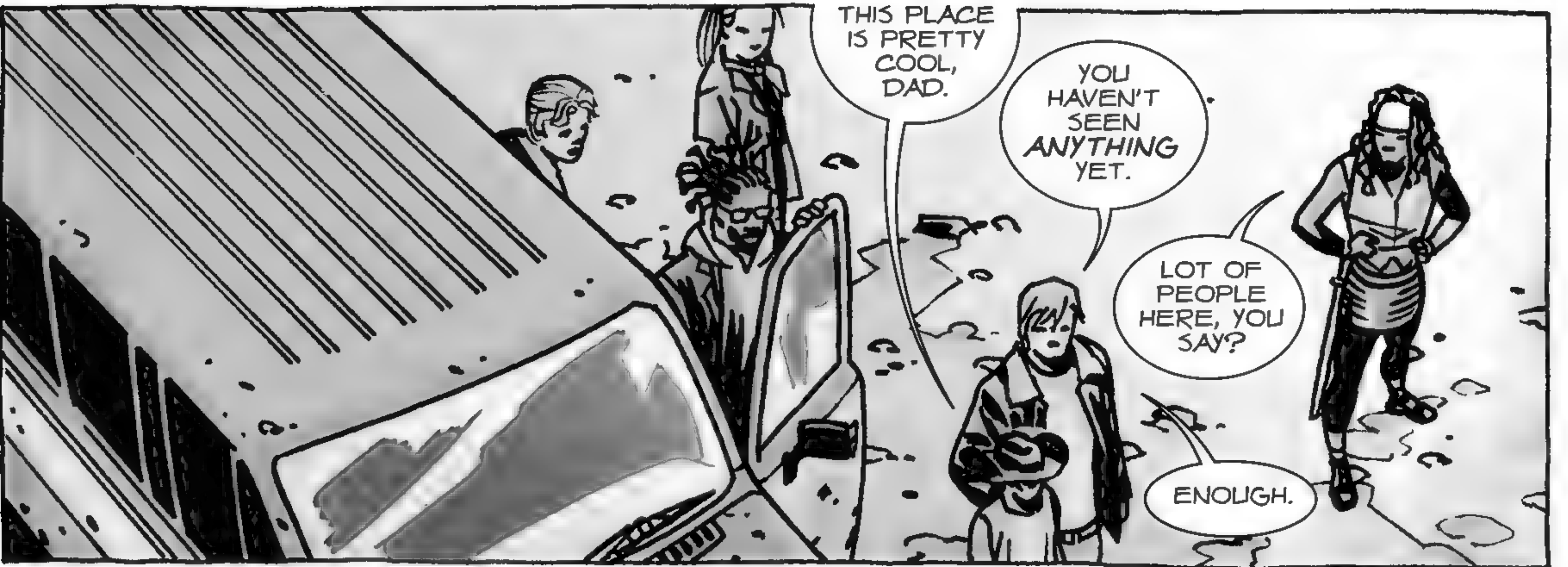
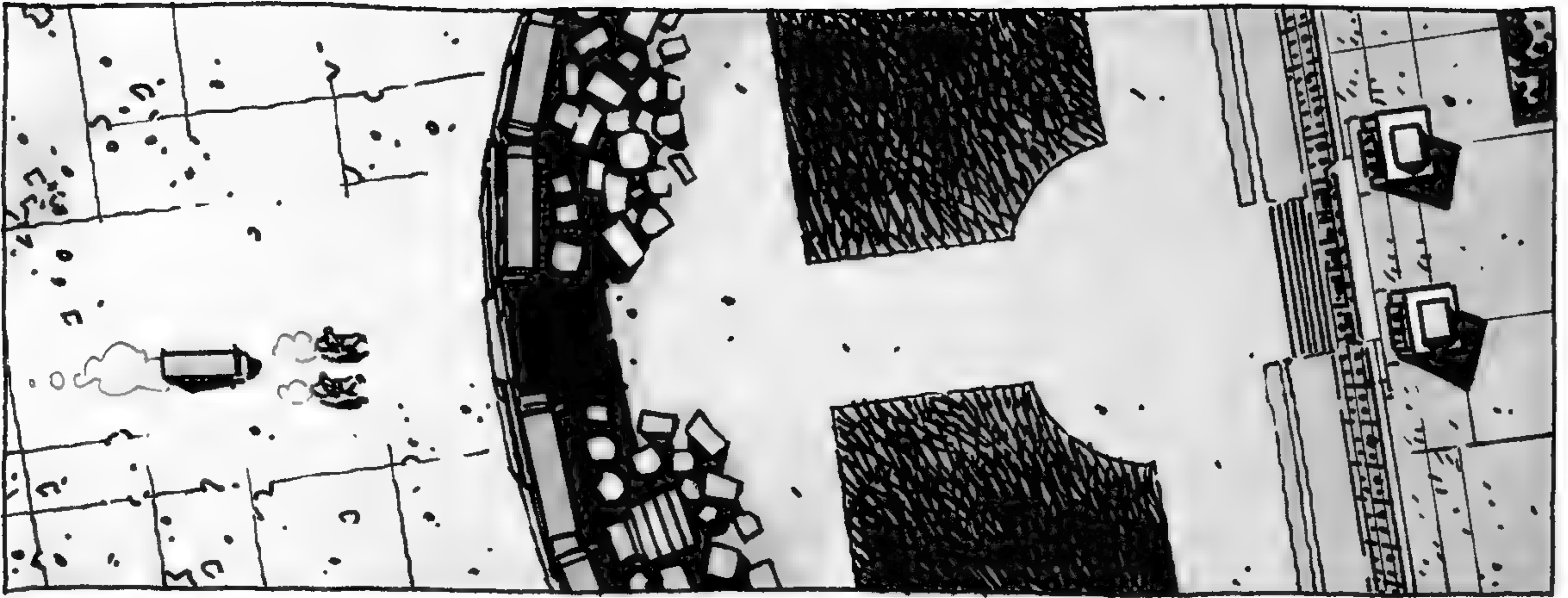
WELL... I WISH YOU'D HAVE
JUST THOUGHT ABOUT IT
INSTEAD OF DRAGGING US
BOTH ALL THE WAY OUT
HERE BEFORE YOU
MADE UP YOUR
DAMN MIND.

YOU
COULD HAVE
GOTTEN
US KILLED.



WE
CAN JUST
KEEP THIS
BETWEEN US,
RIGHT?







BEHOLD!

IT SEEMS A
MERE FEW DAYS
AGO THAT GOOD RICK
GRIMES DEPARTED
FROM MY KINGDOM,
VOWING TO RETURN WITH
ABLE-BODIED SOLDIERS
TO HELP US PREPARE
FOR OUR COMING
CONFLICT!

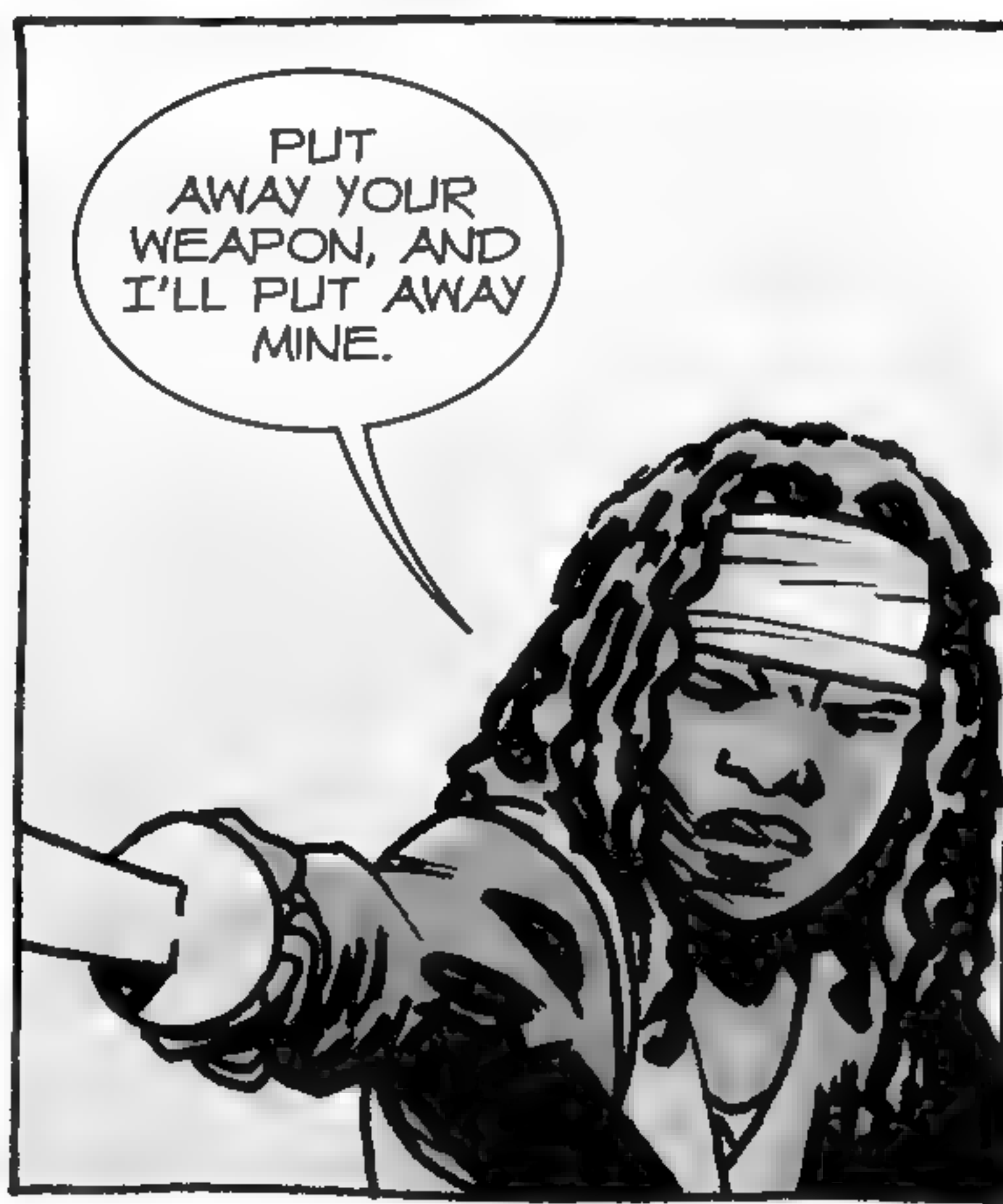
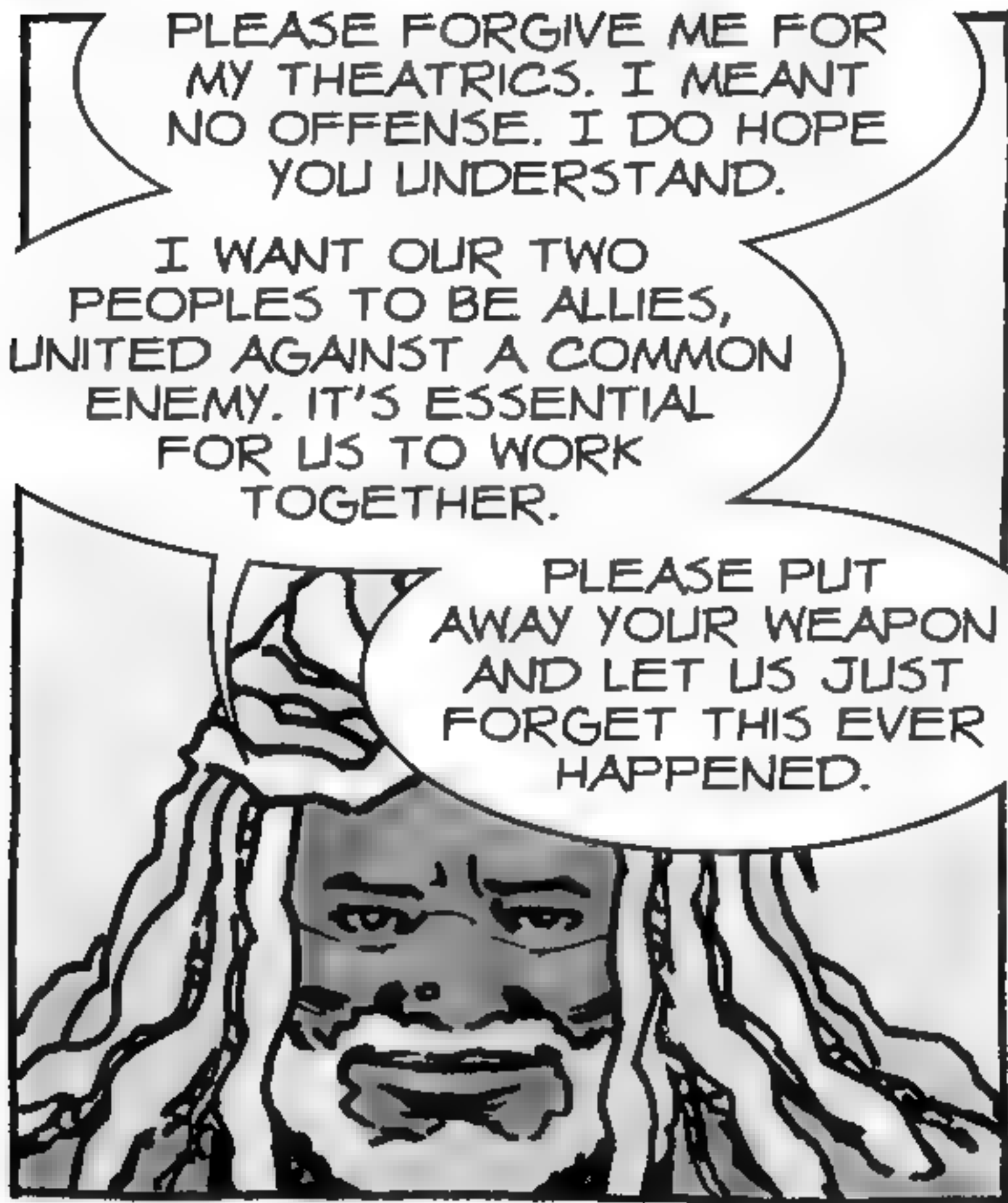
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TIME
HAS PASSED--AND YET,
HERE HE STANDS, SAID
SOLDIERS IN TOW.

REMARKABLE!



YOU GOTTA
BE FUCKING
KIDDING
ME.









SLINKING BACK INTO THEIR RANKS UNNOTICED. THE COMING CONFLICT WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE THE HEAD OF THIS DRAGON WE CALL THE SAVIORS.

GIVING US THE OPENING WE NEED TO BRING THIS CONFLICT TO A SWIFT RESOLUTION.





DINE!
ENJOY THE
BOAR WE'VE
SLAUGHTERED
IN YOUR
HONOR!

EAT
AND BE
MERRY! FOR
TOMORROW
WE GO TO
WAR!



THIS GUY
IS JUST TOO
MUCH.

I CAN'T ARGUE
WITH YOU THERE. I
CAN'T GET A READ
ON HIM... BUT IF JESUS
TRUSTS HIM, I THINK
HE'S ON THE LEVEL.



IF JESUS
TRUSTS HIM,
I TRUST HIM.



TO NEW FRIENDS--
AND THE END
OF OLD
ENEMIES.





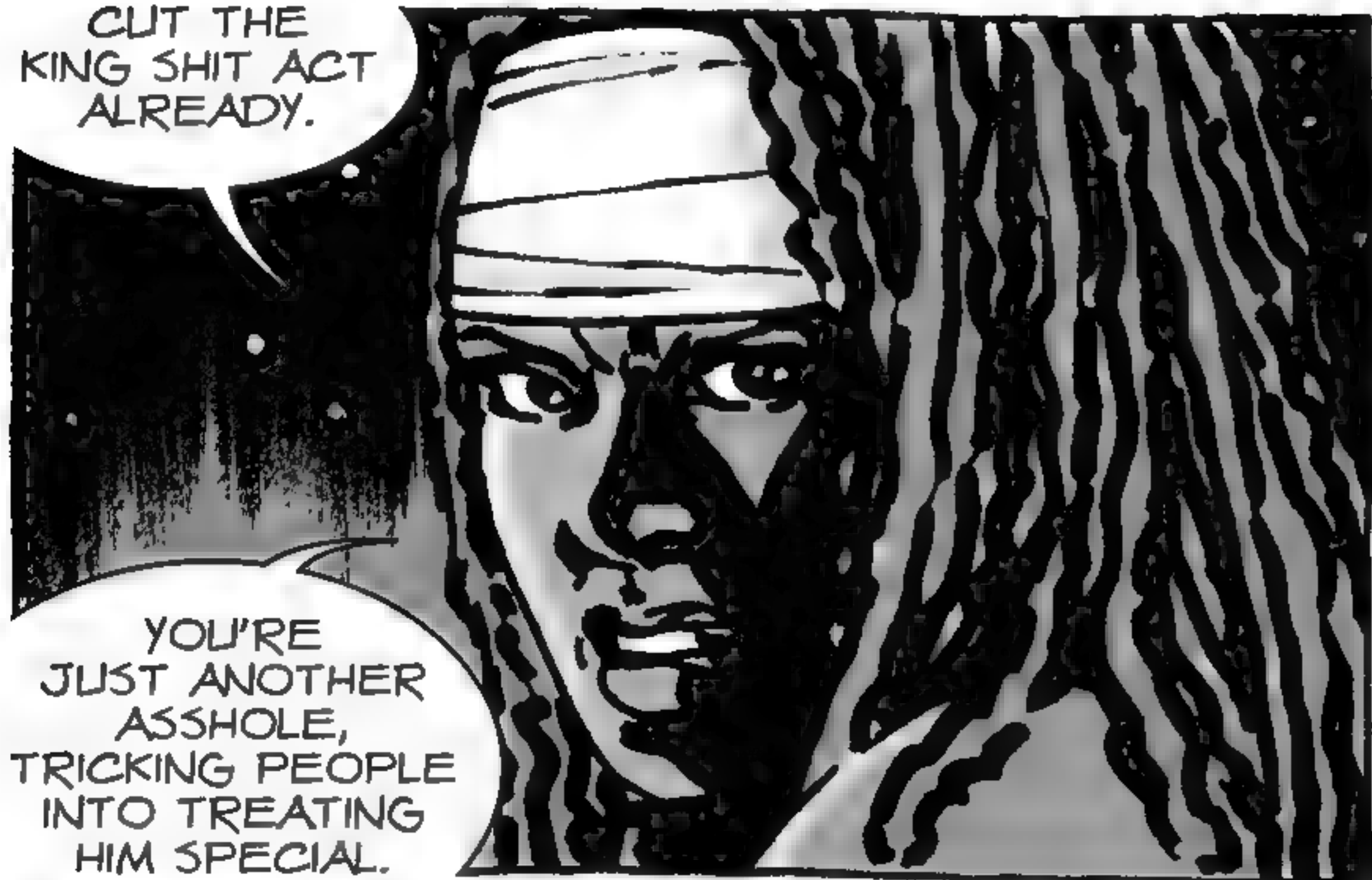
IT DIDN'T
TAKE YOU
LONG TO FIND
MY FAVORITE
SPOT IN MY
ENTIRE
KINGDOM.

WAS A
GREENHOUSE
FOR A BOTANY
CLASS. WE'VE
REPURPOSED IT
INTO A VEGETABLE
GARDEN WORTHY
OF OUR
SPLENDOR.



CUT THE
KING SHIT ACT
ALREADY.

YOU'RE
JUST ANOTHER
ASSHOLE,
TRICKING PEOPLE
INTO TREATING
HIM SPECIAL.



I HEAR THE NUMBER
ONE RULE OF
BULLSHITTING IS KNOWING
TO NOT BULLSHIT A
BULLSHITTER.

I'VE SEEN HOW
YOU HOLD YOUR
SWORD. STANCE IS
OFF, GRIP IS UNSURE.
YOU'VE LEARNED TO USE
IT, NO DOUBT, BUT YOU'RE
NOT TRAINED IN ANY
FORMAL WAY... YOU
HOLD IT LIKE YOU'RE
FENCING.

YOU'RE
PLAYING
SAMURAI THE
SAME WAY I'M
PLAYING KING.





PEOPLE WANT SOMEONE TO FOLLOW. MAKES THEM FEEL SAFE. PEOPLE WHO FEEL SAFE ARE MORE USEFUL, LESS DANGEROUS... MORE PRODUCTIVE.

THEY SEE A GUY WITH A TIGER, START SPREADING LARGER THAN LIFE STORIES ABOUT HIM FINDING IT IN THE WILD, WRESTLING IT TO SUBMISSION AND TURNING IT INTO HIS PET... WHO AM I TO BURST THEIR BUBBLE?

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'RE TREATING ME LIKE A KING... HOW CAN I NOT ACT THE PART?

SHIVA FELL OUT OF HER EXHIBIT... DOWN INTO THE DEEP MOAT THAT PROTECTED HER FROM THE PATRONS.

POOR THING THOUGHT I WAS WHAT WAS CAUSING ALL THAT PAIN... GOT ME ACROSS THE GUT--BUT NOT BEFORE I GOT MY SHIRT TIED AROUND HER LEG.

I SAVED HER LIFE.

I WAS A ZOOKEEPER. I WAS THERE WHEN SHIVA WAS BORN. HELD HER IN MY HANDS WHEN SHE WAS THE SIZE OF A KITTEN.

VETS WERE ON THEIR WAY, BUT I SAW SHE'D RIPPED HER LEG OPEN ON THE WAY DOWN-- IT WAS REALLY BAD, SHE WAS GOING TO BLEED OUT.

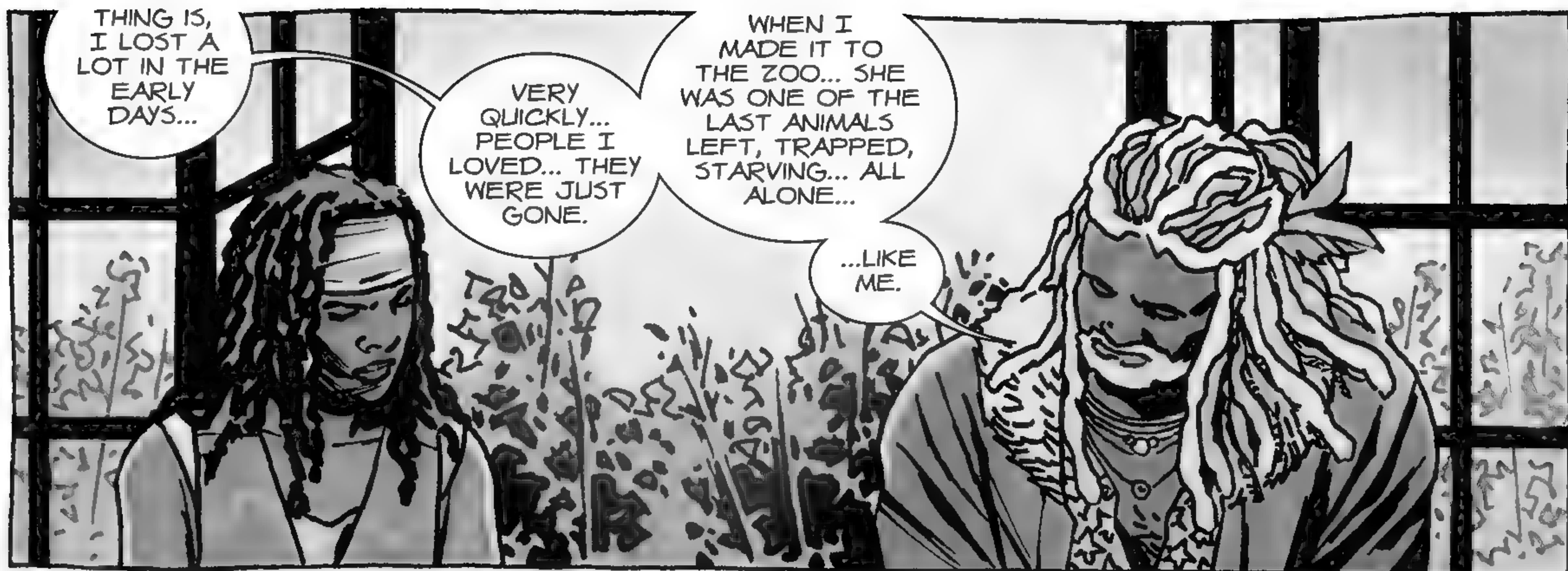
I KNEW THE RISKS, BUT I HAD TO DO SOMETHING. IN THE END, I LIVED... AND AFTER THAT, SHE NEVER SO MUCH AS SHOWED A TOOTH IN MY DIRECTION... IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS SORRY.

I KNOW IT DOESN'T SEEM PRACTICAL KEEPING A TIGER AROUND. SHE EATS NEARLY AS MUCH AS TEN MEN.

WORSE THAN THAT, SHE COULD YANK THAT CHAIN RIGHT OUT OF MY HAND--OR JUST JERK MY DAMN ARM CLEAN OFF... BUT SHE DOESN'T.

I'VE BEEN LEADING HER AROUND BY THE CHAIN SINCE SHE WAS A CUB--IT STOPPED HER THEN, SHE THINKS IT STOPS HER NOW... BUT STILL, BIG CATS, THEY'RE UNPREDICTABLE.





THING IS,
I LOST A
LOT IN THE
EARLY
DAYS...

VERY
QUICKLY...
PEOPLE I
LOVED... THEY
WERE JUST
GONE.

WHEN I
MADE IT TO
THE ZOO... SHE
WAS ONE OF THE
LAST ANIMALS
LEFT, TRAPPED,
STARVING... ALL
ALONE...

...LIKE
ME.



TRUTH IS,
THAT CAT'S
THE LAST THING
LEFT IN THIS
WORLD THAT I
LOVED.



SHE PROTECTED
ME, HELPED ME
GET HERE...

...BROUGHT
ME THE
RESPECT... AND
FEAR NEEDED
TO SET UP
SHOP HERE.



I USED TO ACT IN
COMMUNITY THEATRE.
THE KING EZEKIEL BIT
COMES AS SECOND
NATURE
TO ME.



MY NAME
REALLY IS
EZEKIEL,
THOUGH.

THAT
MUCH IS
REAL.



I SHOULDN'T BE TELLING YOU ALL THIS... BUT YOU SEEM LIKE SOMEONE I CAN TRUST.

MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HOW DAMN CUTE YOU ARE.



CUTE?

THAT'S A FIRST.



STUNNINGLY CUTE.



AND THIS IS THE REAL YOU?



THIS IS AS REAL AS IT GETS.

BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS BETWEEN US. COOL?

FOR NOW...



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Welcome back, letter hacks. No funny business this go-around. Let's get talking tiger.

I get that it's zombies. It's fantasy. But the tiger thing is ridiculous. The amount of food he'd have to be feeding it each day to keep it docile enough to have as a pet would be astronomical. There's no way anyone would have that much food to spare in that world. We're talking a week or more of human rations every day. I mean even in the zombie apocalypse world that's jumping the shark.

And I don't mean to be Mr. Quick-to-correct, but tigers don't roar.

Ezra
Birmingham, AL

Wait, you're saying Tiger's DON'T roar? Come on, man. That's not even remotely true. Tiger's roar like crazy. You can get on Youtube and see video after video of those things roaring. I'll be the first to admit that keeping a tiger in captivity is not at all practical in any way... and is very difficult. But it can be done... and I think we went a long way toward explaining it in this very issue.

The food thing was covered. Tigers in captivity eat around seventy pounds of meat a week, not a day... a week. A lot of people get that mixed up.

That's a lot, yes... but the Kingdom has resources.

Your world of the walking dead is as real as any ever created to support an epic tale. It rivals worlds created by J.R.R.Tolkien, Frank Herbert, C.S.Lewis and Lewis Carroll for the memorability, depth and detail of its landscape and characters yet it manages to create equal fantasy using details we're already familiar with. Quite a feat, quite a tale. The fact that no one speaks the word "zombie" is a testament to the tale's existence outside of the standard genre. We could easily be reading an alternate newspaper.

Then after reading issue 108, I feel as if Batman just flew in on his BatGlider with a bag of Bat-a-rangs. I'm not feeling this Ezekiel at all.

I'll give it a few dozen more issues to come around and change my mind, but I'm telling you, that may be it...

David R. Strong

Ezekiel is awesome. Thanks for offering to give it "a few dozen more issues." That's... roughly 36 issues right? Who's to say Ezekiel will even still be ALIVE then? But honestly, after reading this issue, I hope the character is starting to make a little more sense. He was always meant to be over the top... so that when his backstory was revealed, he seemed almost like a completely different person. We're going to be having a lot of fun with this guy.

108 just came out. The same day as Pope Francis becoming the 266th Pope, congrats, you planned this didn't you? Speaking of Popes... this is pretty effed, are you ready? According to the Prophecy of the Popes, written in the 12th century (!), the 266th Pope to be elected will be the FINAL pope, and will oversee the church as the "City of Seven Hills" is destroyed! We could be looking at end times soon... what do you think about that? I'm not looking forward to it, I'd rather it happen after I'm dead. The book will be done by then right?

Teaghan, British Columbia, (that's in Canada).

Yes, this book will definitely end after you're dead. When we all bathe in the lifeblood of newborns and your comic collections are rendered instantly meaningless by forces that can't be understood. Like Galactus.

Remember the prophecy that this book will have aliens in it by issue 75... because I will have run out of ideas by then? Well... that didn't happen either. Mostly.

Sean and Robert,

I love everything you all are doing on TWD. I really do. I love the direction and all your decisions you make in regards to the storyline and the comic. I look forward each and every month to it. BUT, I gotta say. I'm pretty sick and tired of the, what I assume is obligatory, wasted space that follows Letter Hacks. Almost always plugging other obscure Image comics. I get it. Buy Image Comics. A lot of people

read TWD and I understand it's a good opportunity to push other comics that need better sales or others that will otherwise fail. But can't you all do that on just 1 page and not 4? This month's issue #108, you all waste 4 pages of what could otherwise be used for more Walking Dead or Letter Hacks, maybe even a short story tying up a loose end from earlier in the series or maybe even a flash back or flash forward. I don't know, ANYTHING ELSE. Doing the math, that's 4 pages each month of essentially the same thing. Multiply that by 12 and you got 48 pages of practically wasted space for the year. That's enough space to put 2 more full issues of TWD out. This is gross negligence on part of Image and someone should probably be fired. Starting with Sean. I'm fairly certain I speak for 99% of the people when I say, please for the love of God and all that is holy. Stop wasting space and please print an additional 2-3 more pages of TWD each month. I thank you for your time and keep up the GREAT work.

Charles Rogers

Is it gross negligence to run paid ads (like BIOSHOCK INFINITE, available now!), or promote our own Skybound products (like THE WALKING DEAD: ASSAULT iOS app or INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #1, available now!), all of which bring revenue into Skybound?... Instead of generating additional content, which costs time and money and is tangential to the Walking Dead story? Sorry, man, but that's a completely unreasonable request. \$2.99 has always given you a cover, 22 interior pages, and at least 2 pages of Letter Hacks. Hey, and those ads are in glorious COLOR! Not even cheap-ass B&W like the rest of the book!

Seriously. This comic is \$2.99 when most are more than that these days... a lot of 22 page comics are \$3.99. The ads in the back aren't WASTED SPACE, they're EXTRA PAGES. A comic is a standard 22 pages in length and most are actually 20 pages now (and often those are \$3.99). I could honestly take up the rest of this letters column talking about how wrong you are.

It's like complaining about the credits at the end of the movie, saying, "Why can't I get more movie!" Or complaining about those stupid commercials that keep interrupting TV... "If you cut those... you could do almost an entire other episode worth of stuff over the course of three episodes, what gives?!"

It's just nutty, sorry. You want more, we get it. But it's math. It takes us a month to do 22 pages. We could do 33 pages... and the book would take six or so weeks to do instead of four... so you'd get the book less often. We could do six issues a year at 44 pages instead of 12 issues a year at 22. There's only so much time in the day.

Dear Mr Kirkman,

OK SO UM I AM RELATIVELY NEW TO TWD FANDOM AND FOUND THE COMICS THROUGH THE SHOW. SO JUST OK THANK YOU ROBERT AND THE REST OF THE WALKING DEAD TEAM. YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING. SORRY FOR THE CAPITAL LETTERS AND THE INCOHERENT GRAMMAR. THIS IS THE BEST WAY I CAN EXPRESS MY LOVE.

Ok...I'm calm. But another thing I have to get out of my system... THIS COMIC RULES SO FUCKING MUCH AND IS SO BADASS I LITERALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF (OK NOT LITERALLY BUT LITERALLY!!!!!!)...

Really, I love character developments, the gruesomeness and the humanness of everyone. Obviously I suppose these are part of your aims, but I want to emphasize and reiterate that everything about it so brilliant. It was SO MUCH TORTURE when Negan was taunting Rick about Carl. In my head all I could think of was "he's dead, they've killed him - no - godammit, I hate you!!!"

As a 17 year old girl in the UK, unfortunately I'm scarce on TWD comic fans as this is my first comic ever. Nobody ever introduced them to me, as I just felt like reading them at some point when the show began. Thank you so much for this wonderful introduction to comics and I am so so excited for the future issues.

I'm rambling... OK I have some questions:

Will any of you adopt me? (I am completely house trained and as much as I love my parents, it would be really great to creep over your shoulder and watch you work)

Absolutely not.

Nope.

How do you come up with the volume titles? (I really adore them)

I ask Robert for them.

I get them directly from the devil.

Robert, have you ever let fans stroke your beard?

That will never happen.

Will you let Eugene find ~love~ even if it isn't Rosita? (Come on, a super intelligent man that intentionally uses a mullet to hide his utter geniusness, now that is just a whole new level of smarticles and attractiveness)

Agreed... and we'll see.

These are important questions that need answers.

This is my first time to send a letter and I hope this gets published! Also, it's 4am and I've been catching up with the TV show. (**Season 3 spoilers**)!?!?!??? ALSO, I should get sleep to revise in the morning instead of intense Google searching/stalking the tv cast and you guys, as I have my exams soon. But it's fine, TWD, keeps me calm. Shame there's no chance of a zombie apocalypse to get me out of exams, heh...

Thanks!

Jennisa
Cambridge

It's unlikely but I wouldn't say there's NO chance...

Reading the latest issue I started to think about how people in the TWD comic must see this Rick guy as we see The Governor and Negan. You know, here comes this guy leading a group with his uneasy attitude after so much struggle, MISSING A FREAKING HAND, followed by a one-eyed kid, women with katanas and such. They don't know the myth behind the man, it must be terrifying to trust him. Maybe they call him nicknames behind his back like The Sheriff or The Commissioner.

Make mine Kirkman! Everyone go read Invincible!

Gabriel Diaz

I love this letter.

It's awesome because it responds to itself.

Gentleman,

Thank you for writing such a superb graphic novel series. I have thoroughly enjoyed the nuanced characters you have created. I became a fan of the show and then an addict of the graphic novel series.

I appreciate that you are able to dispatch characters that not only we as reader avidly followed, but that you have put a lot of work into creating. How much of an emotional hit do you take when you choose a storyline that will cause the death of a character you have developed? Are you able to detach yourself since the series is the actual item you have nurtured and the characters are just the catalyst?

It's upsetting. I mean, it's not like a real person dying... but it sucks. It doesn't really hit me until I'm writing issues they're not in. From time to time I think about something to do with Glenn and I'm like, "Well, damn it."

But I'm not in a support group or anything.

A gentleman in Letter Hacks issue #108 with some experience with firearms questioned how Rick's semi-automatic firearm would have clicked in issue #106. He stated that the slide would lock to the rear. He is only partially correct.

The slide SHOULD lock to the rear. This mechanical feature can fail, but rarely does so. The most common reason for the slide not locking open is the shooter's thumb is pressing on the slide release (happens to me sometimes when shooting a compact).

A trained shooter when hearing the click should immediately pull the slide to the rear. During this process the finger that is activating the slide release is usually removed from it thus allowing the slide to lock to the rear. The shooter would recognize this and drop the magazine and reload with a fresh one.

A "high speed" shooter or well-trained LE officer would shout "cover" on any weapons failure and announce "up" once the failure is cleared.

I look forward to more greatness. Keep making us care enough about the characters to mourn when they pass.

Stay Frosty,
Jason Pizza

I'll do my best. Thanks for the gun info.

Robert,

I hate to admit it, but I have to: I'm a little scared. Not of Ezekiel and his tiger, nor Negan, not even you! What I'm scared of is myself, and the loooong legacy I have to live up to, in letters and witticisms, over the years I've been writing and seeing print here in the column!! I feel like I'm spent, like I've nothing left to say. The comics haven't changed. That is, they haven't dropped in quality. This issue, in fact, #108 to be precise, was maybe the most stunningly different Charlie Adlard work ever! Much appreciated by this fan. A human side to Michonne? Someone named Spencer repenting? Face it, TWD fans, this one had it all. The end sequence with Ezekiel, said tiger, and Rick confronting ol' half-face guy: Had me thinking Star Wars! Guess it just reminded me of a scene from Empire Strikes Back. I wonder, how is Kirkman on Star Wars? I dunno why I ask; SW is still at Dark Horse, soon to return to Marvel. Does make

me think that maybe Skybound is too limiting to the works of Robert Kirkman, though. Already Jonathan Hickman has gone from nowhere to Image to writing FF and Avengers at Marvel! I think if you had the jump now, or at least opened up to the possibility of working somewhere else again other than just Image: Things would be different. But I won't tell you how to run your own career. Just musing! Today's indie comic pick is: The High Ways #3, by John Byrne; I think we're both fans of his, but then who isn't?

Andrew J. Shaw

I was like, "Someone named Spencer? What?" Then I noticed Andrew J. Shaw wrote this letter and it made sense. You forget characters way too easily, man.

I love me some Star Wars.

And I disagree doing books anywhere other than Image would help my career. Image is the best place. And my company, Skybound, isn't limiting at all. I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT.

Tell me about it...

Hi,

I just read the last 70 issues (in about 3 days) which is the most I've ever read of any comic, and its been a great ride so far. So thank you for introducing me to a medium I'll probably spend countless hours of my life on, as if TV, movies, video games, and the internet hadn't already consumed my feeble existence! After reading issue after issue, I was hoping my question would be answered but it hasn't, so.... here it is: Why the hell hasn't Rick done something with that useless nub of his on his right arm?!?! I mean, if redneck Merle can figure out how to make a weakness into a weapon, why the hell can't Rick? An attachment for a shield, knife, hatchet, hook, machete, heck even a fork or a spoon is better than a useless nub!

Its gotten to the point that I cringe every time Rick gets into a fist fight with someone because I know he's always fighting with one hand. It just seems like an obvious choice for Rick to not waste an appendage the way he has been, he knows he's at a disadvantage why not do something about it? Are hooks and knives as appendages not Rick's style? Does he feel it would make him too intimidating? Yeah right! Rick knows he's the man, when he gives orders he expects them to be carried out.

I can understand now why it would be weird to add a weapon to his nub after all this time since he should've thought of it a LONG time ago.. So did you just fuck up or was there a reason you decided to leave Rick a one handed weakling?

Maybe there's still time! Maybe Eugene will think its time for Rick to get an upgrade! Oh shit, now it will never happen.

Well Fuck you very much for getting me into comic books and for chopping off Rick's damn hand so early on and leaving him helpless this entire time!

I love you,
Bye.

Stephen G.
Fort Worth, TX

I think there have been many issues that have proven Rick to be anything but helpless now that he's missing a hand. I think it worked with Merle in the show, but I've always felt it would be strange for Rick to have a knife attachment on his hand. It would just seem farfetched.

But now that there's a tiger in the book...

Let me begin by saying that I love the comic, TV show hasn't been of the same quality all the time, with stupid characters hogging the spotlight, like Andrea, but the comic tends to keep things good and interesting, by focusing more on the stronger more capable characters , you know, like Andrea.

anyway, onwards and upwards, Ezekial has a tiger, this leads me to speculate that he's really just a zookeeper who convinced everyone he was a big shot, how else would he know how to tame a tiger like that, not that I would judge him if he was, doesn't matter who he was before, he's stepping up to the plate now.

and that stuff about Dwight...damn, I wanna know just what is exactly so great about being one of Negan's wives, it seems HORRIBLE

anyway, great issue but since I didn't have much to say this time i'll throw in a plea to be included in the Hacks...please, and a fuck you, because all the cool kids are doing it

Sincerely,
Ian from Illinois

Ian, you win this month's game of Closest to the Pin. Thanks for playing.

Seriously... wow. That is creepy. You totally figured Ezekiel out from reading 108? That's just nuts. Very impressive, man.

Stay safe out there and see you next month in our ad-supported, zombie-filled funny book!

-Sean Mackiewicz

You know what... just to make that guy happy, next issue is 48 pages, no ads! (not really). We hope to see you all back here next month. Thanks for reading.

-Robert Kirkman

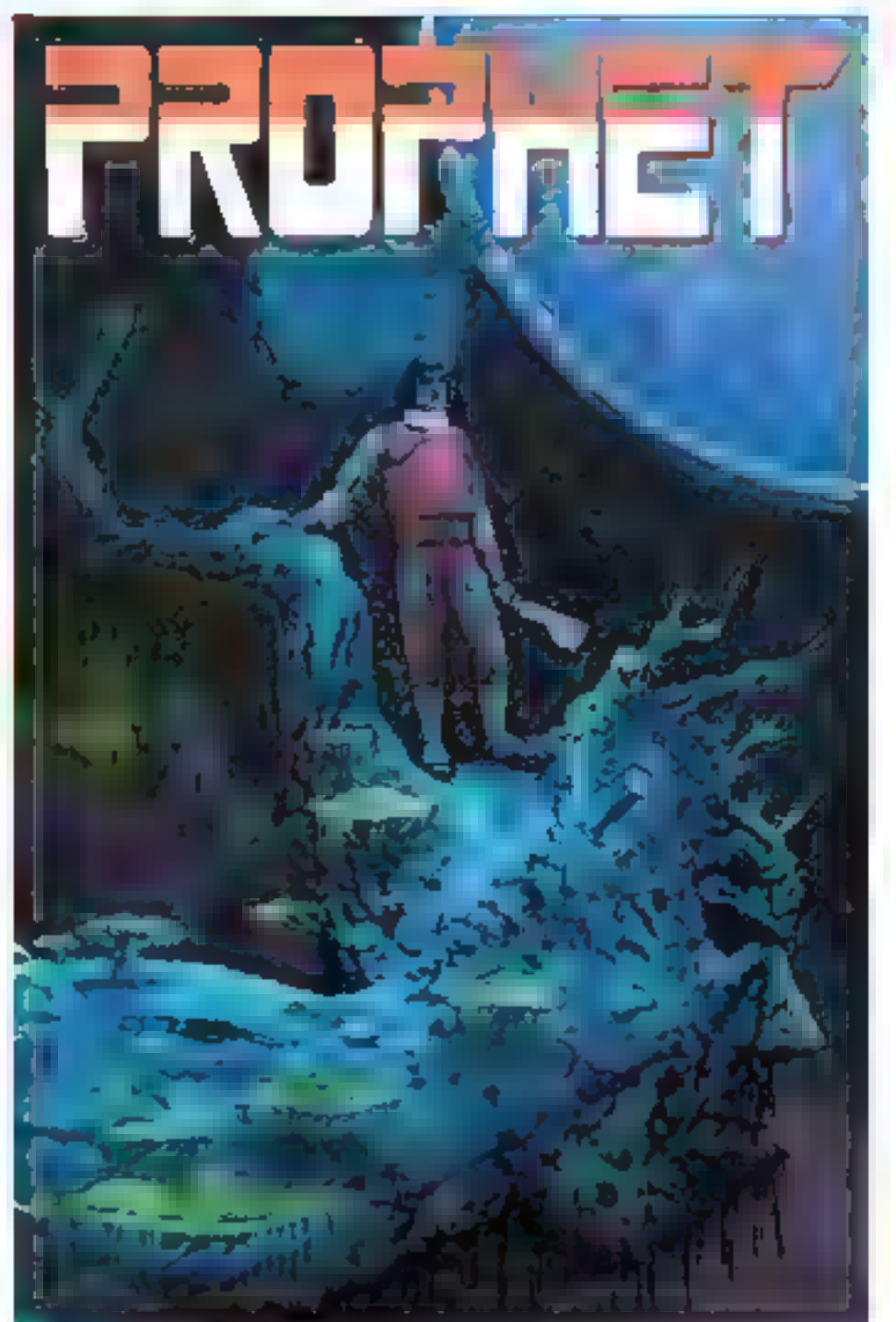
DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



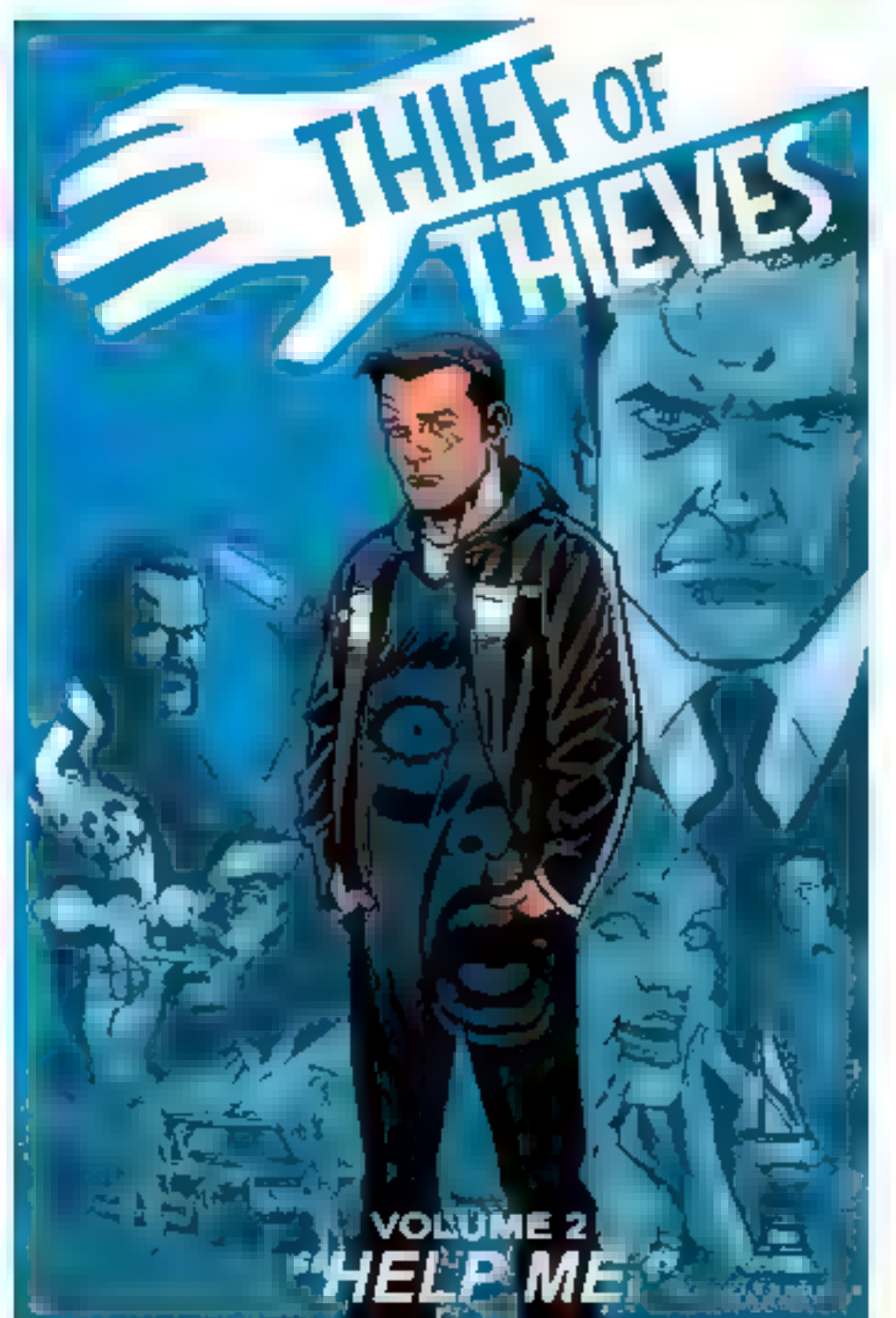
THE WALKING DEAD #111
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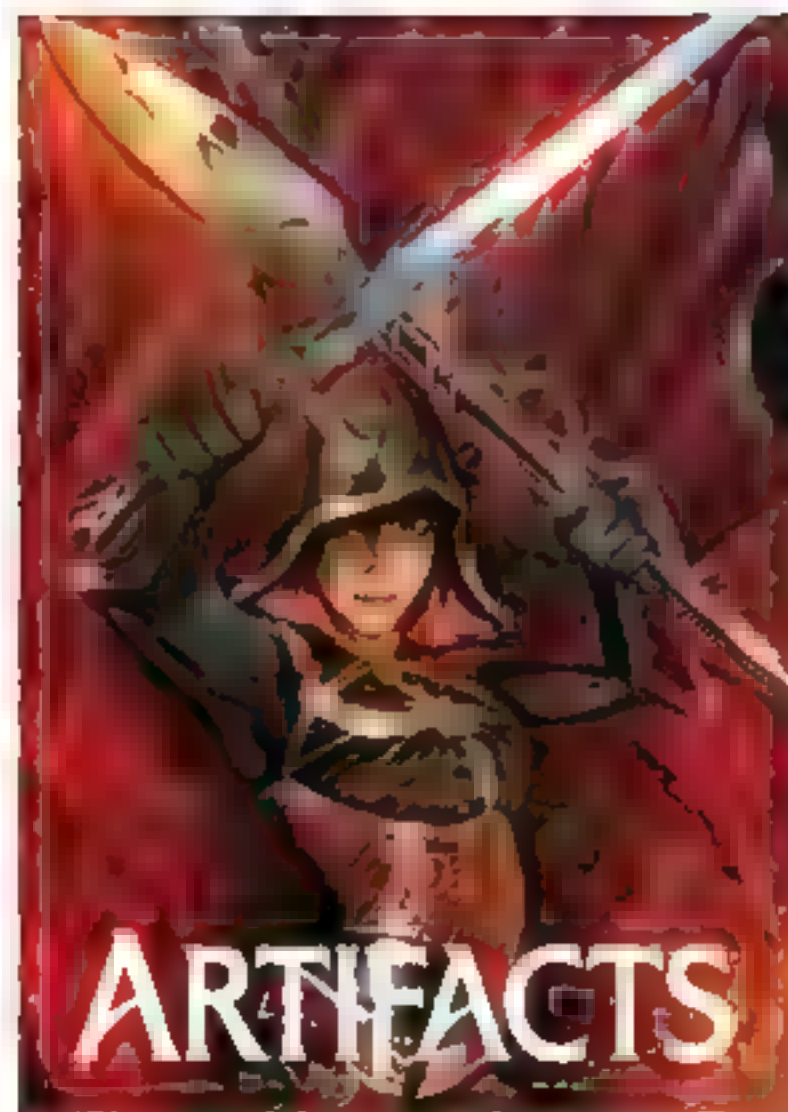


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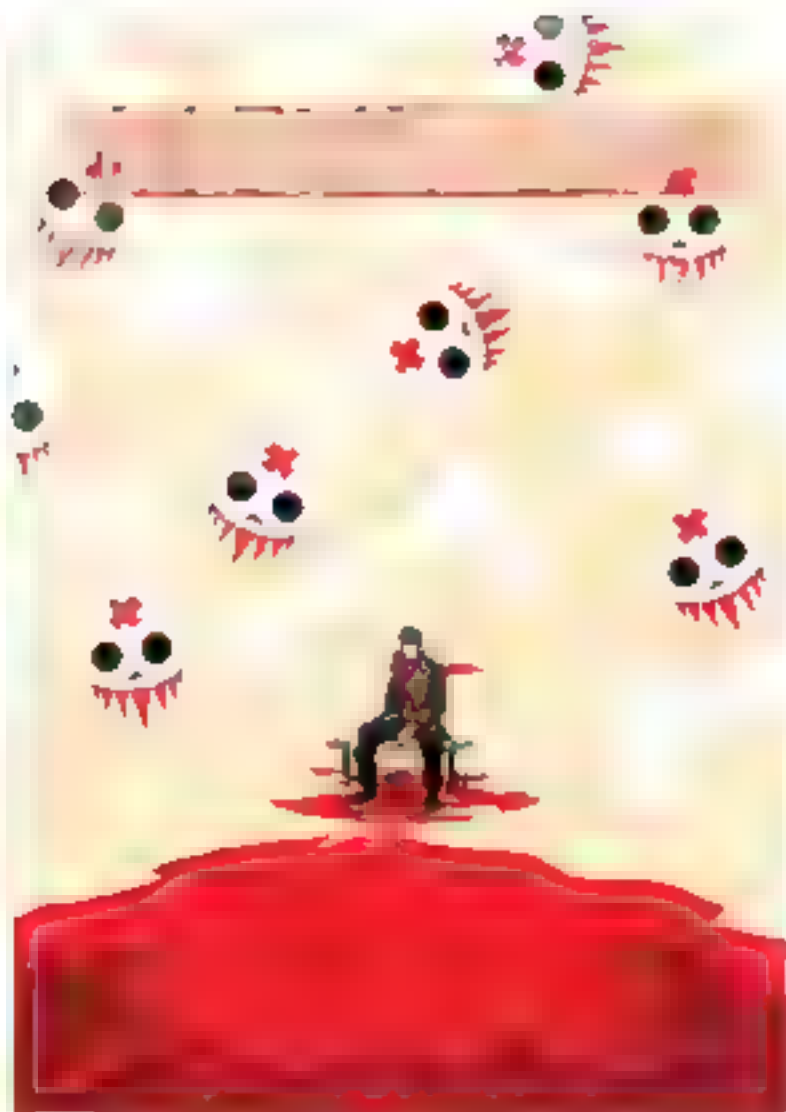


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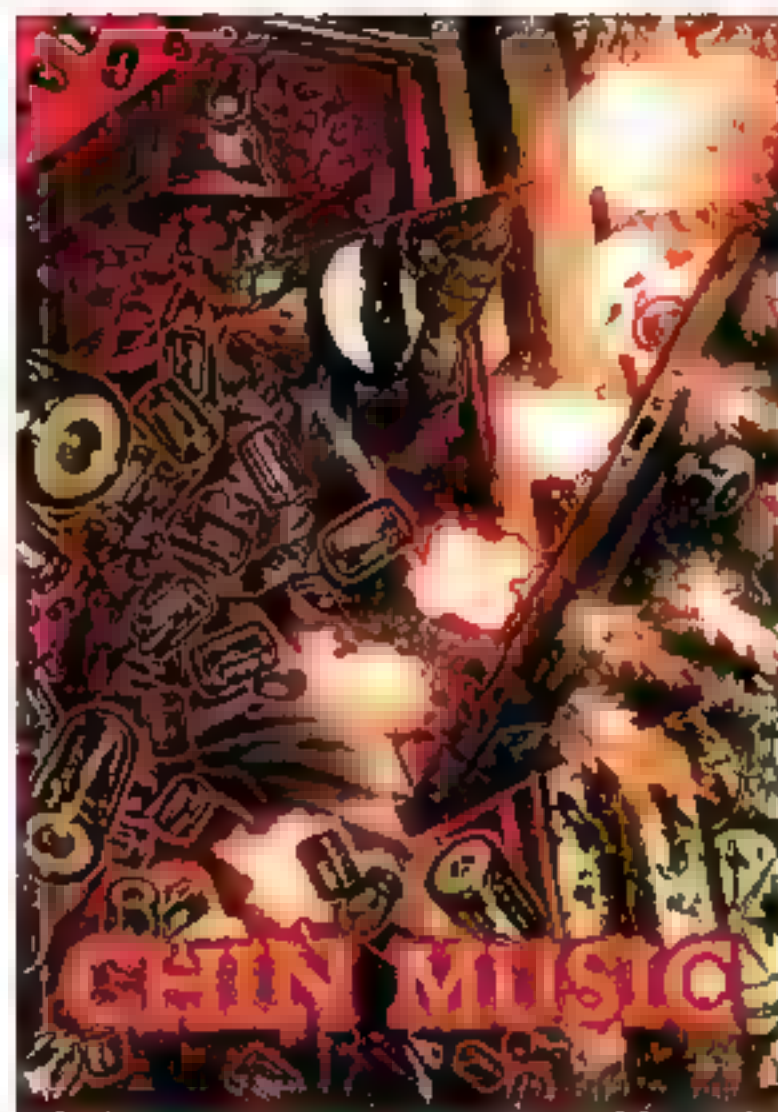
☐ Artifacts #27



☐ Bedlam #7



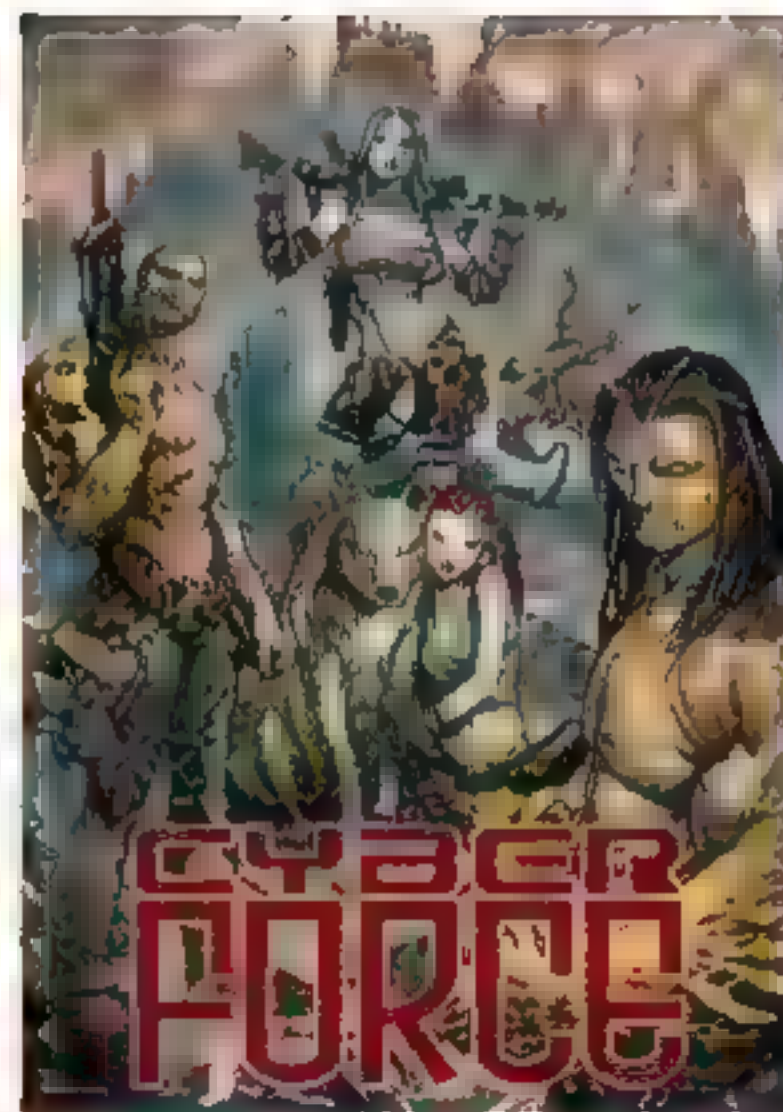
☐ Chew #34



☐ Chin Music #2



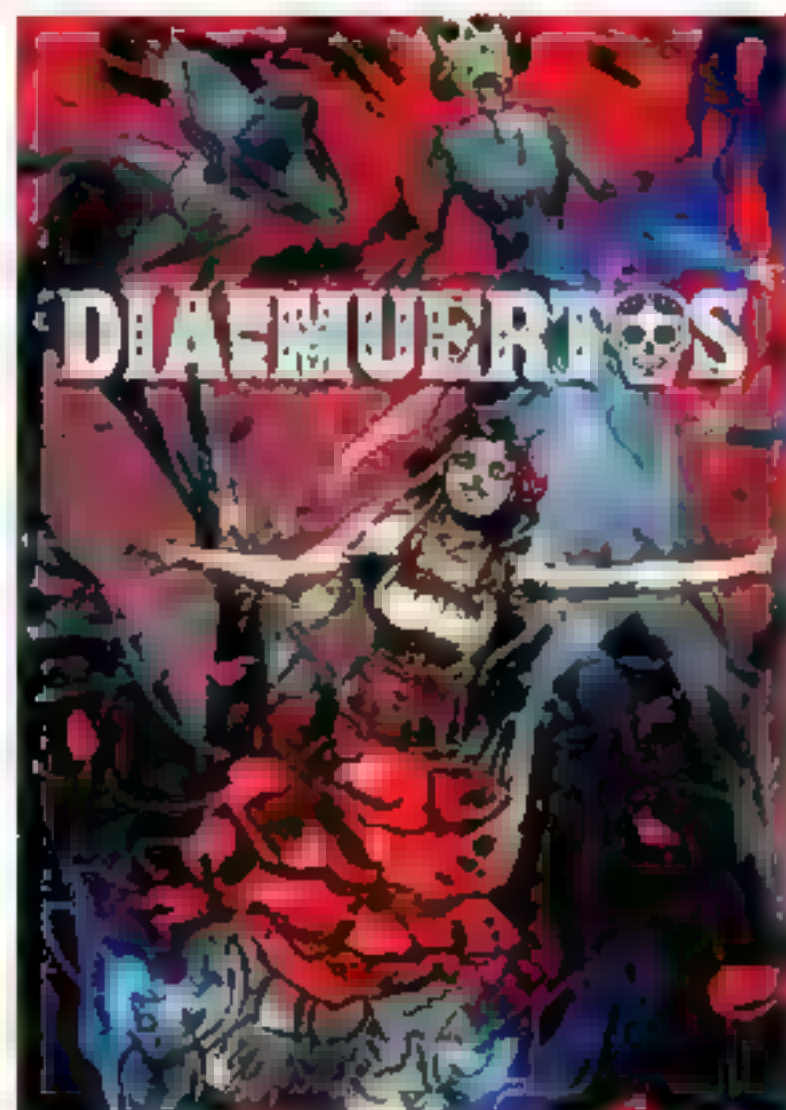
☐ Clone #7



☐ Cyber Force #5



☐ Darkness #113



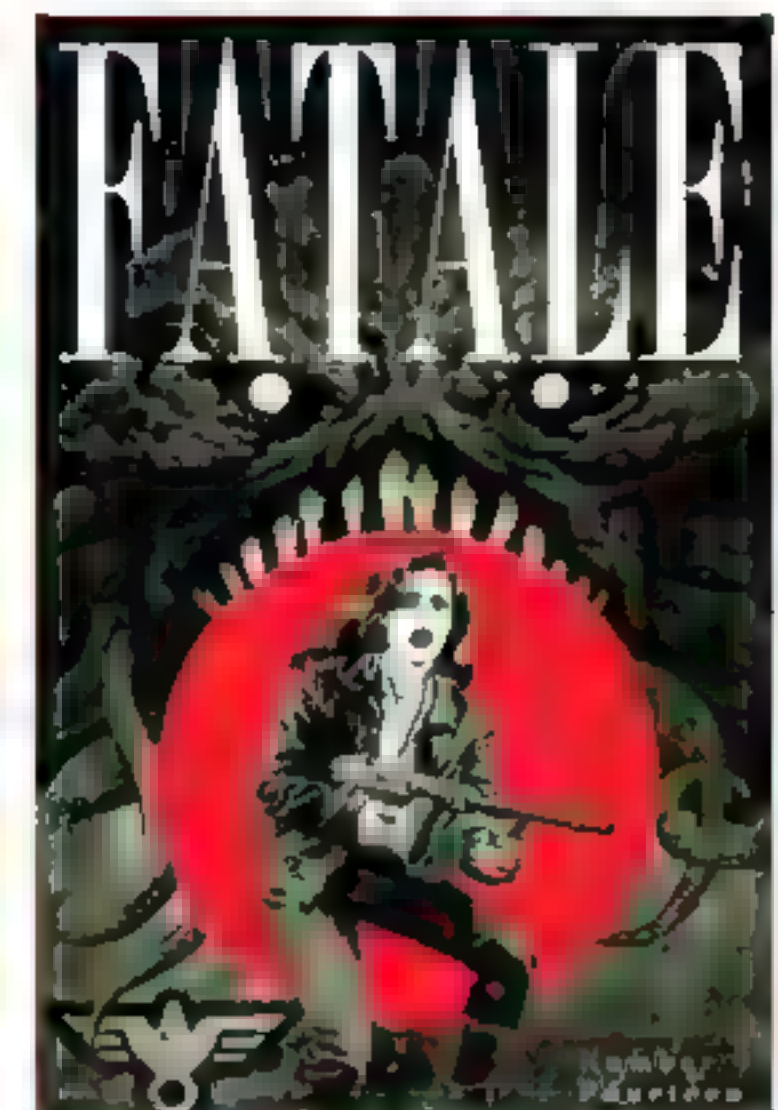
☐ Dia de los Muertos #3 (of 3)



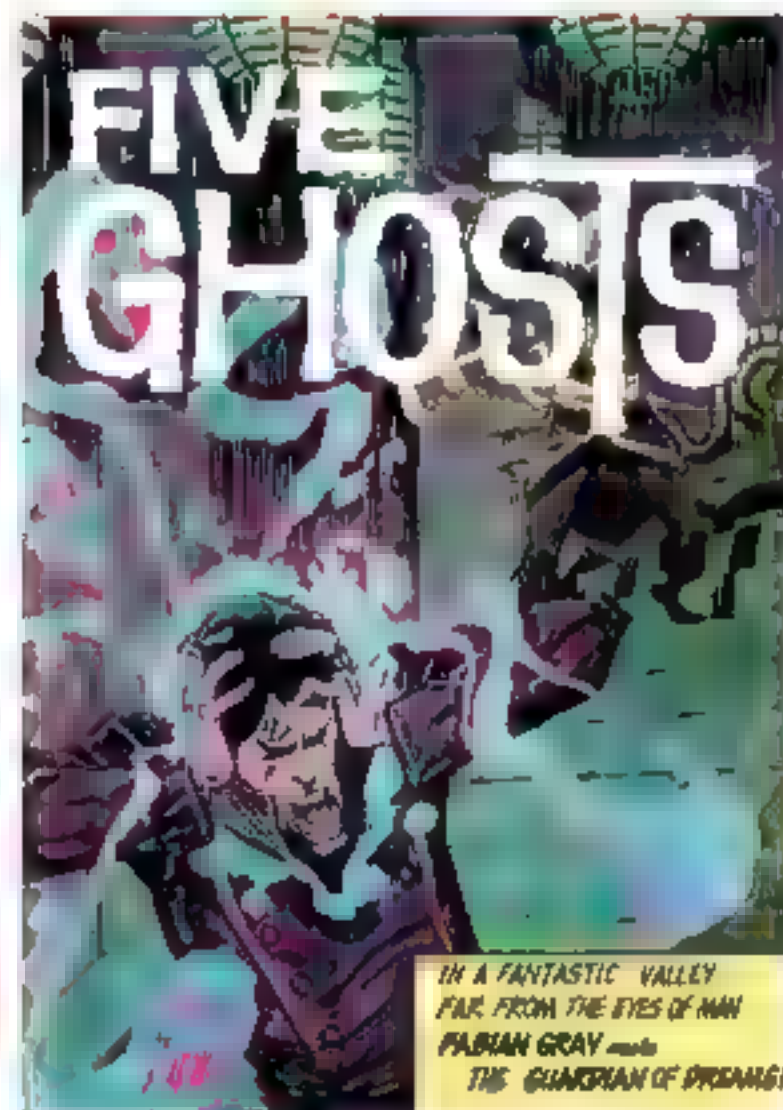
☐ East of West #3



☐ Elephantmen #48



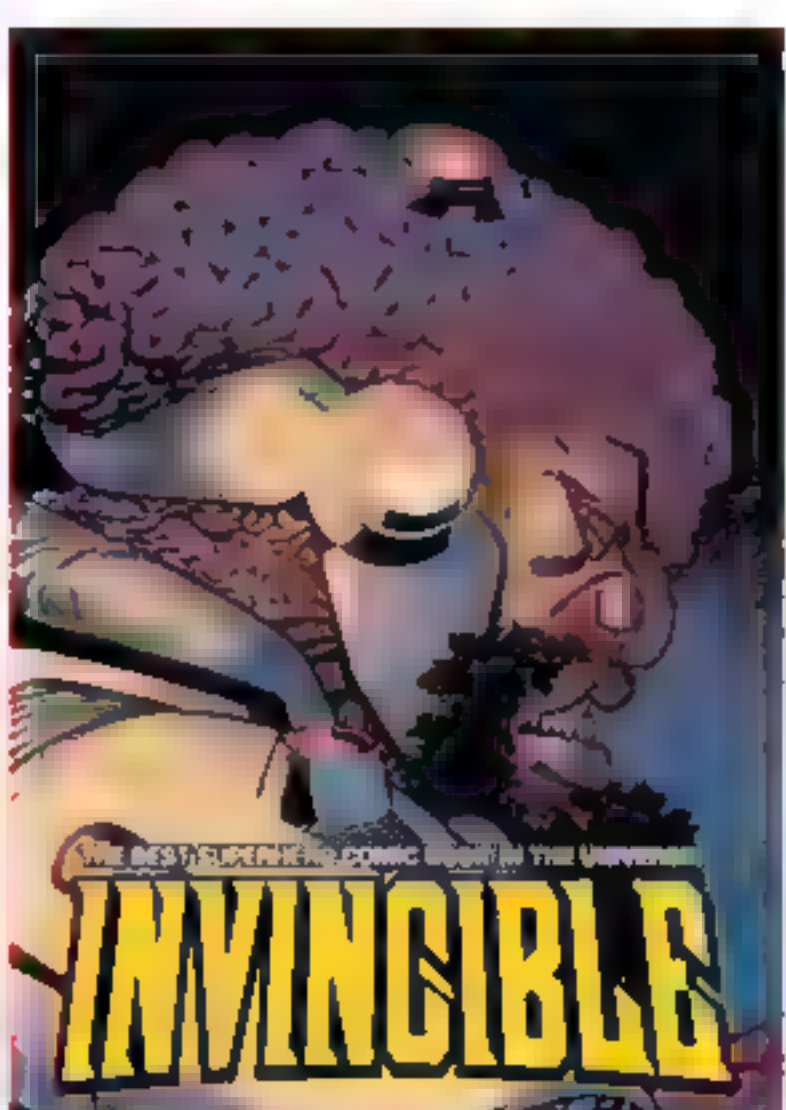
☐ Fatale #14



☐ Five Ghosts #3 (of 5)



☐ Five Weapons #4 (of 5)



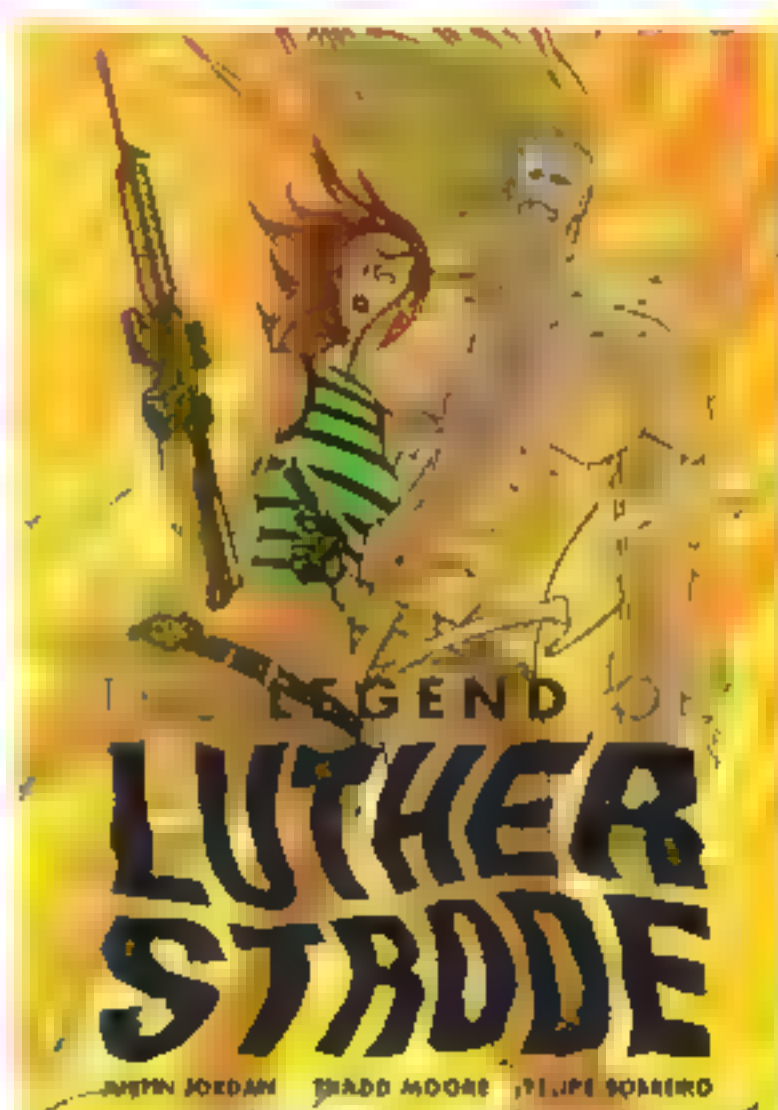
☐ Invincible #103



☐ Invincible Universe #2



☐ It Girl & The Atomics #10



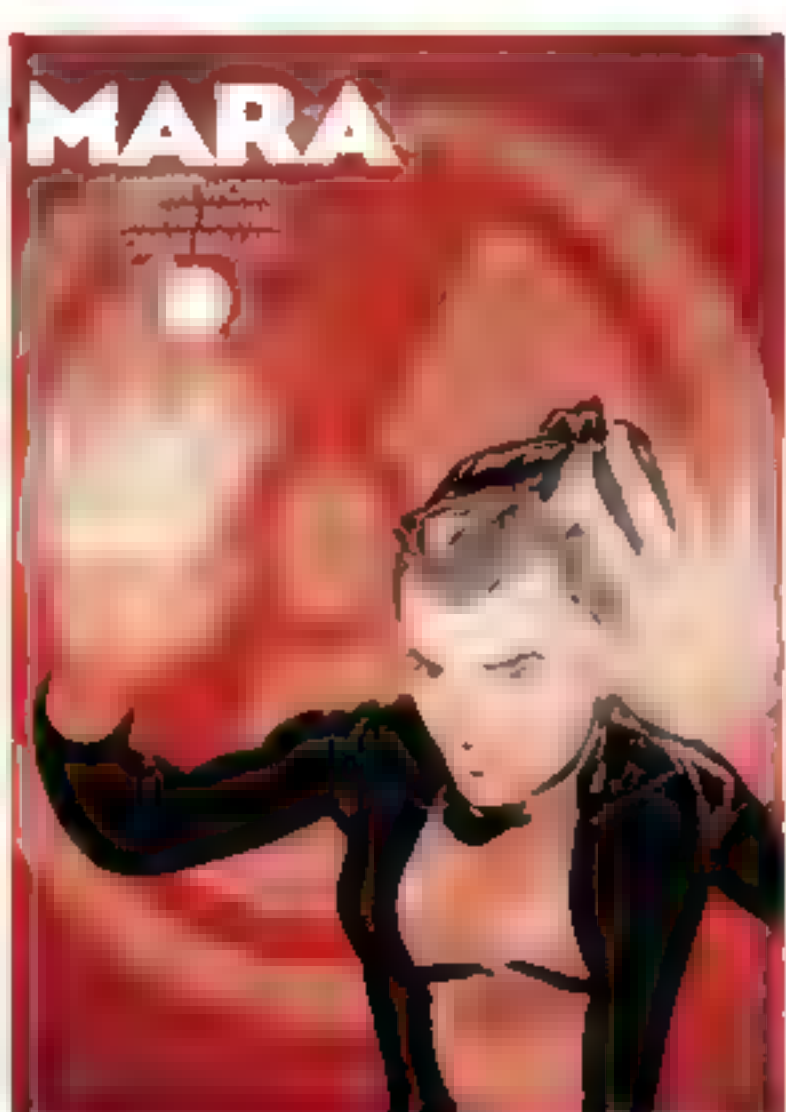
☐ Legend of Luther Strode #5 (of 6)



☐ Lost Vegas #3 (of 4)



☐ Manhattan Projects #12



☐ Mara #5 (of 6)



☐ The Mice Templar IV: Legend #2



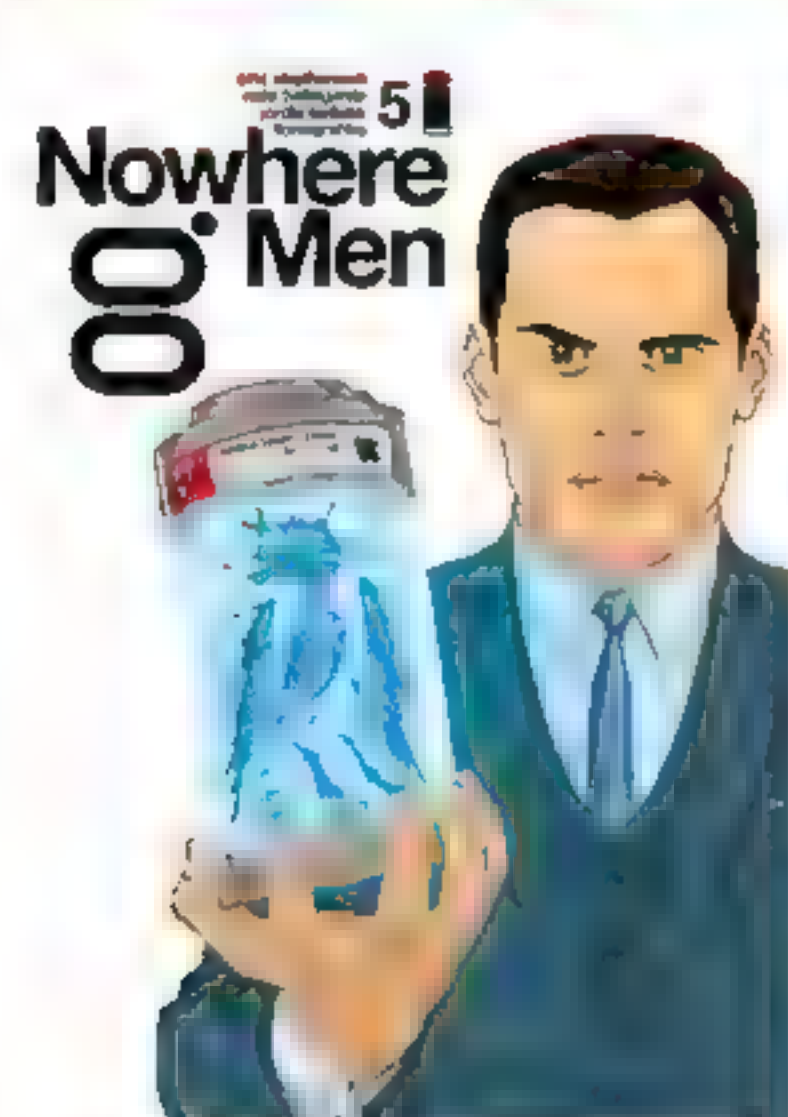
☐ Mind The Gap #10



☐ Miniature Jesus #2



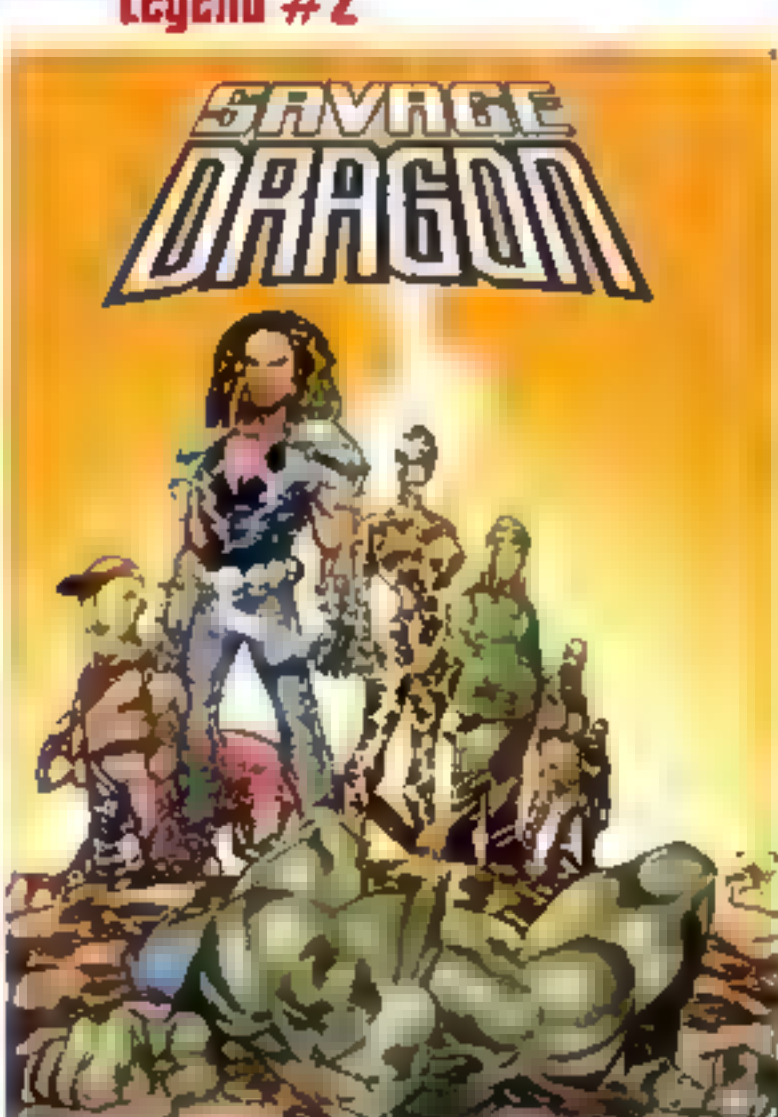
☐ Morning Glories #27



☐ Nowhere Men #5



☐ Revival #10



☐ Savage Dragon #187



☐ Sex #3



☐ Snapshot #4 (of 4)



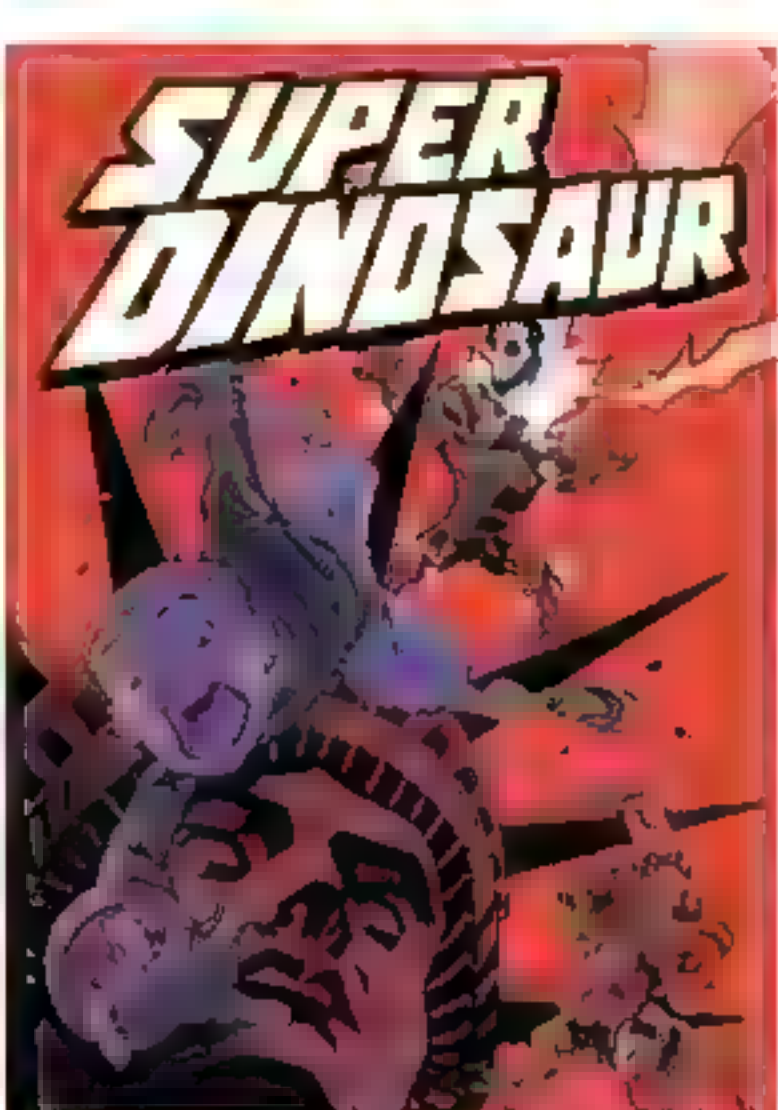
☐ Son of Merlin #4



☐ Spawn #231



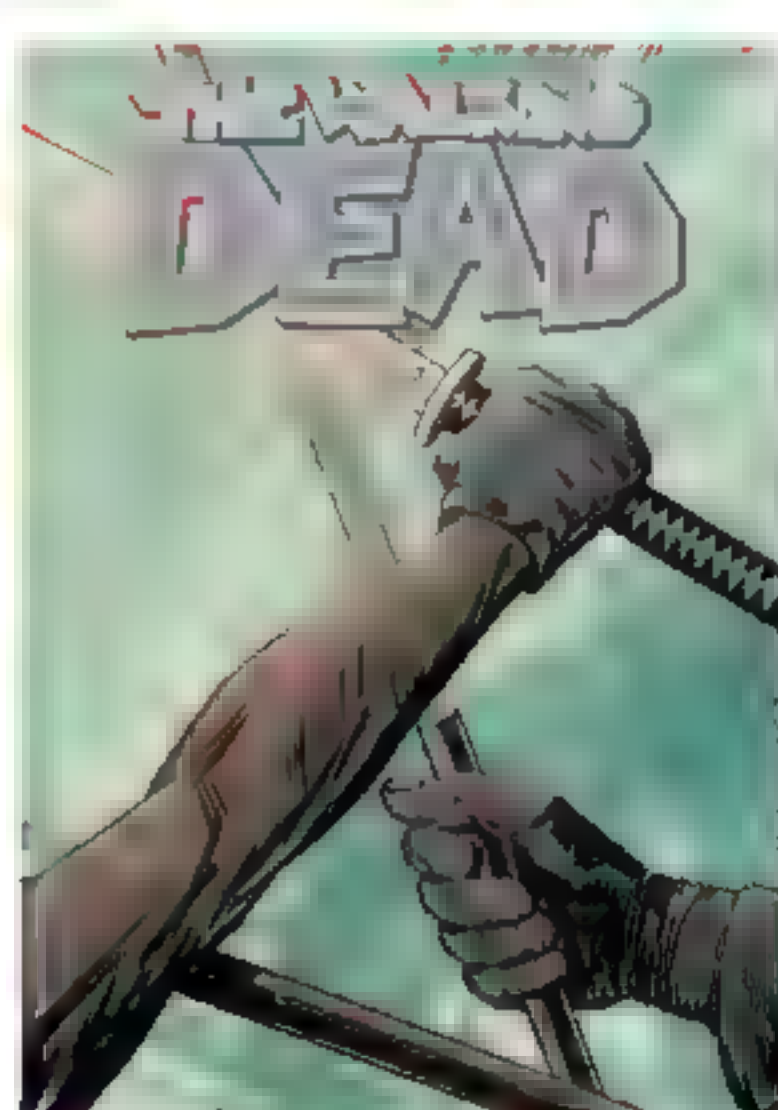
☐ Storm Dogs #5 (of 6)



☐ Super Dinosaur #19



☐ Thief of Thieves #14



☐ The Walking Dead #110



☐ Witchblade #166

What They're Saying About...

EAST OF WEST

"These are the kinds of big, mythical concepts that Hickman likes to play with in a lot of his work, and he's known to plot his epic adventure stories with the precision of a scientist. But the inherent wildness of the western, the danger and dread that is built into this genre, have given him and Dragotta a dramatic filter that makes *East of West* #1 the writer's most visceral first issue yet."

- Comics Alliance

FIVE GHOSTS

"I have tried out a few different pulp comics, each with varying degrees of enjoyment, but none of those have grabbed me like *Five Ghosts* #1 has. Individually, the writing and art are above average, so when placed together a reader can expect to be drawn completely into the story."

- Major Spoilers

MICE TEMPLAR IV: LEGEND

"...an issue that is everything fans of the *Mice Templar* have grown to love about the series: action, heroism, intrigue, and substance. But what makes this first issue especially remarkable is the way in which it still manages to provide a jumping-on point for newer readers who have yet to experience the rich and engrossing history this creative team has been slowly building over the years."

- Newsarama

SEX

"...as much as this title begs for the attention of being called a porno mag disguised as a comic book, it refrains from titillation in favor of creating a fascinating character study amongst a fully realized neo-noir world."

- IGN

MAY 2013

the word

WHAT'S NEXT

THE THIRD DEGREE J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

In 1998, J. Michael Straczynski founded his Joe's Comics imprint. In subsequent years, Straczynski wrote several high-profile DC and Marvel titles and worked as a television writer and producer, most notably on *Babylon 5* and *Changeling*. During his career he has won dozens of awards, including an Eisner, Inkpot, two Hugo Awards, two Emmys, the Saturn Award, the E Pluribus Unum Award from the American Cinema Foundation and the Ray Bradbury Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America. In 2013, he is returning to Joe's Comics with *TEN GRAND*.

What are you working on right now?

Everything just shy of world peace. On the comics side, I just finished writing issue two of *Ten Grand*, I'm deep into the first issue of *Sidekick*, all of *Protectors Inc.* is written and we're in discussions with a major artist for *Alone*. On the film side, I'm writing *Shadowman* for Valiant Comics, and closing the details of a deal that will allow me to direct my first major feature film this fall in Berlin. TV-wise, we just closed a deal for thirteen episodes of a new series created and exec produced by me and the Wachowskis.

What's the best part of your job?

Just knowing every day when I get up that I get to do what I love for a living. If there's anything better than that, I don't know what it is. Well, cake.

What's the worst part of your job?

Meetings. I'm not a people person. But in order to work in this town, you have to show up for meetings all happy-snappy and sparkly. I'm not sparkly. I have a black aura. Little children run from me. I like it when they run. Makes the human sacrifices more of a challenge.

How did you first discover comics?

Growing up, we moved every six months or so, from one city, town or state to another, 21 times in my first seventeen years. While driving back from California to New Jersey - I was probably eight or nine at the time - in the dead of summer without air conditioning, we stopped at this little gas station in the Nevada desert. He saw we were practically dying and out of pity gave me some old comics he had in the back. Not my style in retrospect - *Beetle Bailey*, some Disney comics, that sort of thing, all the soft, kid-comics - but I was fascinated, I'd never seen anything like them before, and read them over and over as we continued eastward until I'd memorized every line. Fell in love and never looked back.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

I'm very fortunate in that I have the opportunity to work in a wide range of venues, so they're always available if that should happen...but in general, if I couldn't write anymore for any medium, I'd like to be an editor (movie/TV, not print). I really enjoy the whole process of editing. If that were not available, I'd look for a career in organized crime.

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?

"You changed my life." One hopes for the better, but one never really knows, does one?

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Rod Serling. Always has been, always will be. The man could do things with the English language that nobody else could even begin to approximate.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?

In TV, *Babylon 5*. Film, *Changeling*. Comics, *Midnight Nation*.

What was the last comic book you bought?

I went back to the store the other day to pick up a missing issue of Len Wein's *Before Watchmen: Ozymandias*. Great writing, stunning art, what more can you ask for?

What is the best advice you've ever received?

"Writing is just speaking in our own natural voice on the page, saying precisely what you intend to say."

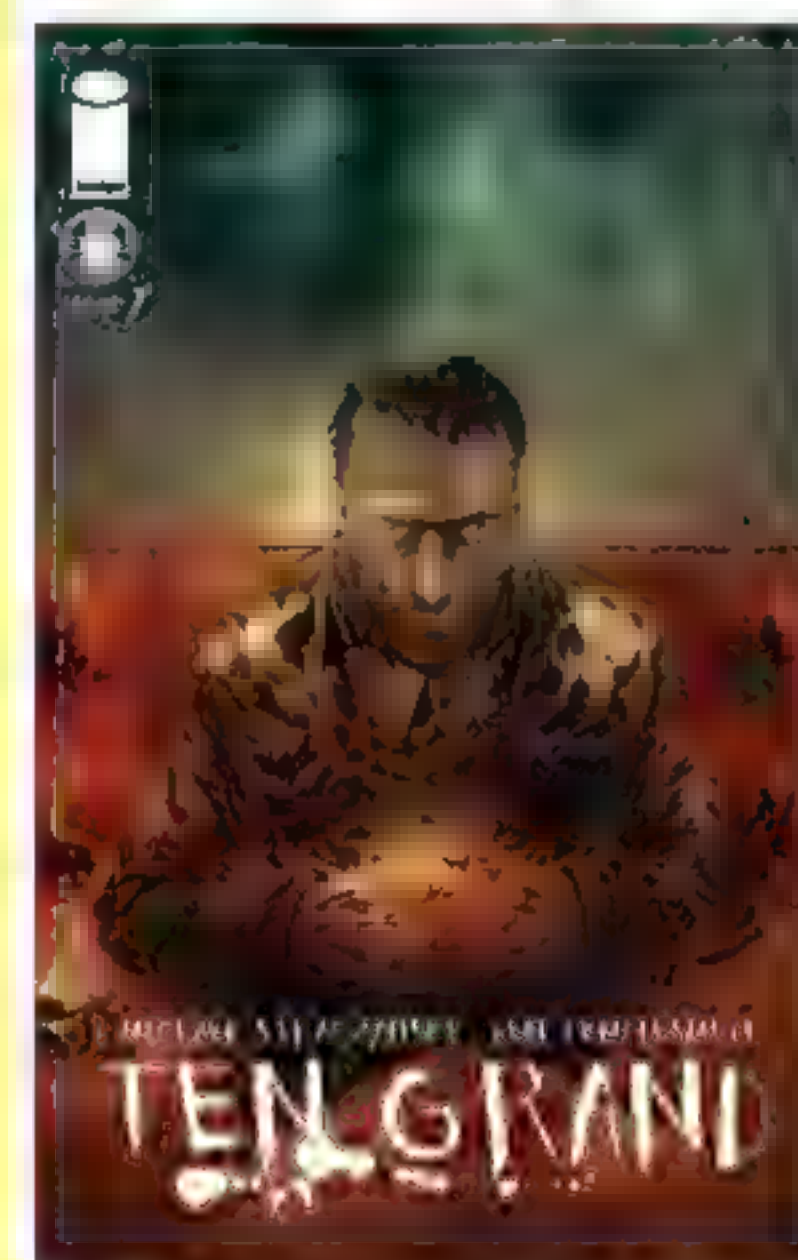
What's the strangest thing you have in your house?

I found this little company that makes incredibly detailed figurines based on the medieval painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, by Hieronymus Bosch. If you know the painting, it's one of the most surreal, disturbing pieces of art ever created. So I have eighteen of these distorted, ominous, seemingly drug-induced figurines on the wall of the powder room when you come into the house, so it's one of the first things you see. Welcome to Joe-ville.

Who is someone you really admire?

Rachel Maddow. What an amazingly brilliant mind. Consistently able to pierce through the fog of words, distortions and positions and come out with something that actually resembles the truth. Strong, good-hearted, smart.

TEN GRAND #1



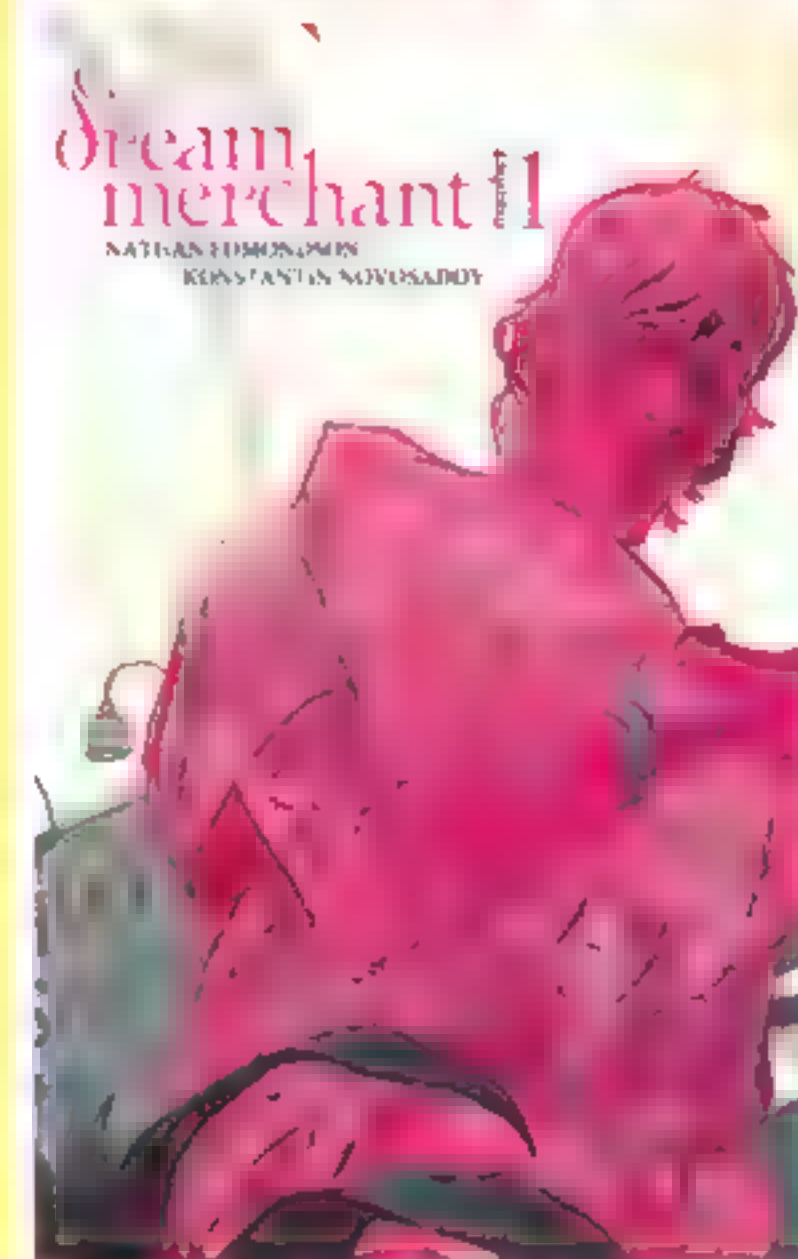
One last job as a mob enforcer leaves Joe Fitzgerald dying and his fiancée Laura dead. He gets a second chance from an angelic force: if he'll work for its cause, the angel will bring him to life and keep on bringing him to life every time he is killed. The reward: for those five minutes of death, he will be with Laura again. By J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI and BEN TEMPLESMITH

THE BOUNCE #1



Meet the ultimate slacker superhero for the 21st Century! Jasper Jenkins is a super-head AND a super-hero! He's reliable AND reliable and he's embarking on the adventure of a lifetime! The sensational debut of the new feel-good hero of the decade! You can't afford to miss it! By JOE CASEY and DAVID MESSINA

THE DREAM MERCHANT #1



Haunted by recurring dreams, a boy named Winslow is hunted by mysterious beings and protected by an old traveler. Soon Winslow will realize that what is in his dreams is what the rest of the world has been made to forget - and what strange entities will stop at nothing to erase from his mind. By NATHAN EDMONDSON and KONSTANTIN NOVASADOV

G-MAN VOLUME 3



CHRIS GIARRUSSO's critically-acclaimed kid superhero series continues with volume three! The brothers G-Man and Great Man have finally returned from their Cape Crisis adventure, only to discover that not everybody is happy that they're back. Will they be allowed to keep their superpowers? What has Wizard Glendoff made for lunch this time?

Nowhere Men™

Volume One // Fates Worse Than Death

Eric Stephenson // Nate Bellegarde // Jordie Bellaire // Fonografiks



Vol. 1 // Fates Worse Than Death
collects the sold out issues #1-6



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**GREG
RUCKA**

LAZARUS



JUNE

**WHO'S
NEXT**

*Whatever Lola wants...
Lola gets...*

...AND CONRAD'S
GOING TO LEARN
THAT THE
HARD WAY.

ANDY DIGGLE JOINS

THIEF OF THIEVES

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ZOMBIE